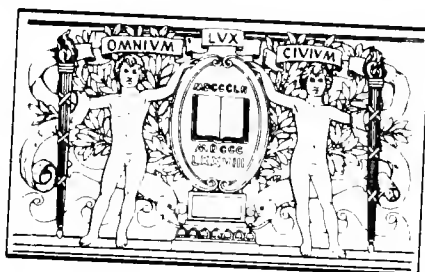


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**BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**





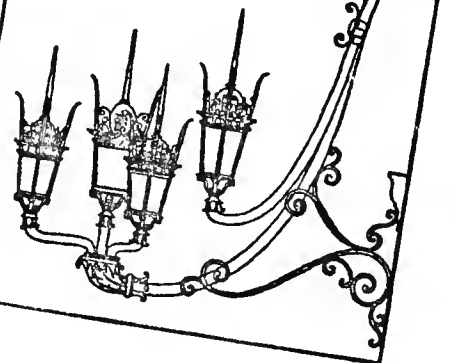
BRA  
589

# Boston's Open Space

1987  
PARK EVALUATION  
&  
SITE SUMMARIES

~~ALLSTON-BRIGHTON~~  
BACK BAY-BEACON HILL

BOSTON  
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LIBRARY



MAYOR'S OFFICE  
OF CAPITAL PLANNING

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1890

1890

1890

# Boston Open Space

1987

PART EVALUATION  
8  
SITE SUMMARIES

EVALUATION OF  
CITY OF BOSTON  
PARK AND RECREATION LAND

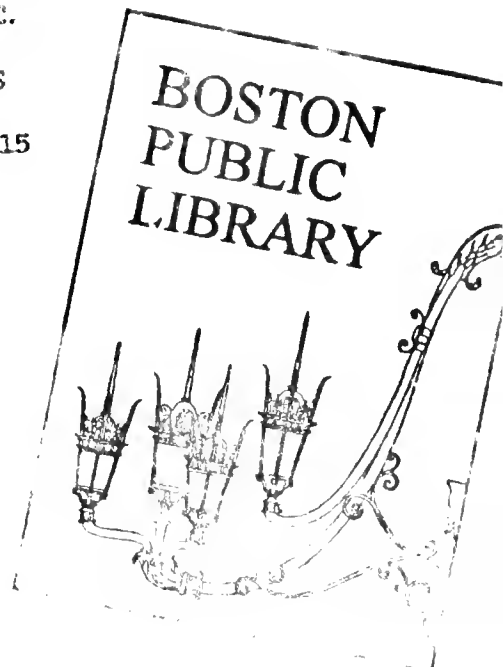
NEIGHBORHOOD OF BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

ADDITION-BRIGHTON  
BACK BAY-BEACON HILL

Prepared for  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
OF  
CAPITAL PLANNING

THE HALVORSON COMPANY, INC.  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND  
SITE PLANNING CONSULTANTS  
161 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115

MAYOR'S OFFICE  
OF CAPITAL PLANNING





EVALUATION OF  
CITY OF BOSTON  
PARK AND RECREATION LAND

NEIGHBORHOOD OF BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

Prepared for  
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115







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BB-1.	Boston Common Tremont to Park Street Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets	3.5
BB-2.	Clarendon Tot Lot Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue	0.33
BB-3.	Myrtle Street Play Area Myrtle and South Russell Streets	0.17
BB-4.	Phillips Street Play Area Phillips Street	0.13
BB-5.	Public Gardens Arlington, Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets	24.25
BB-6.	Not Within Scope of Survey	

### SQUARES AND MALLS

### Acreage

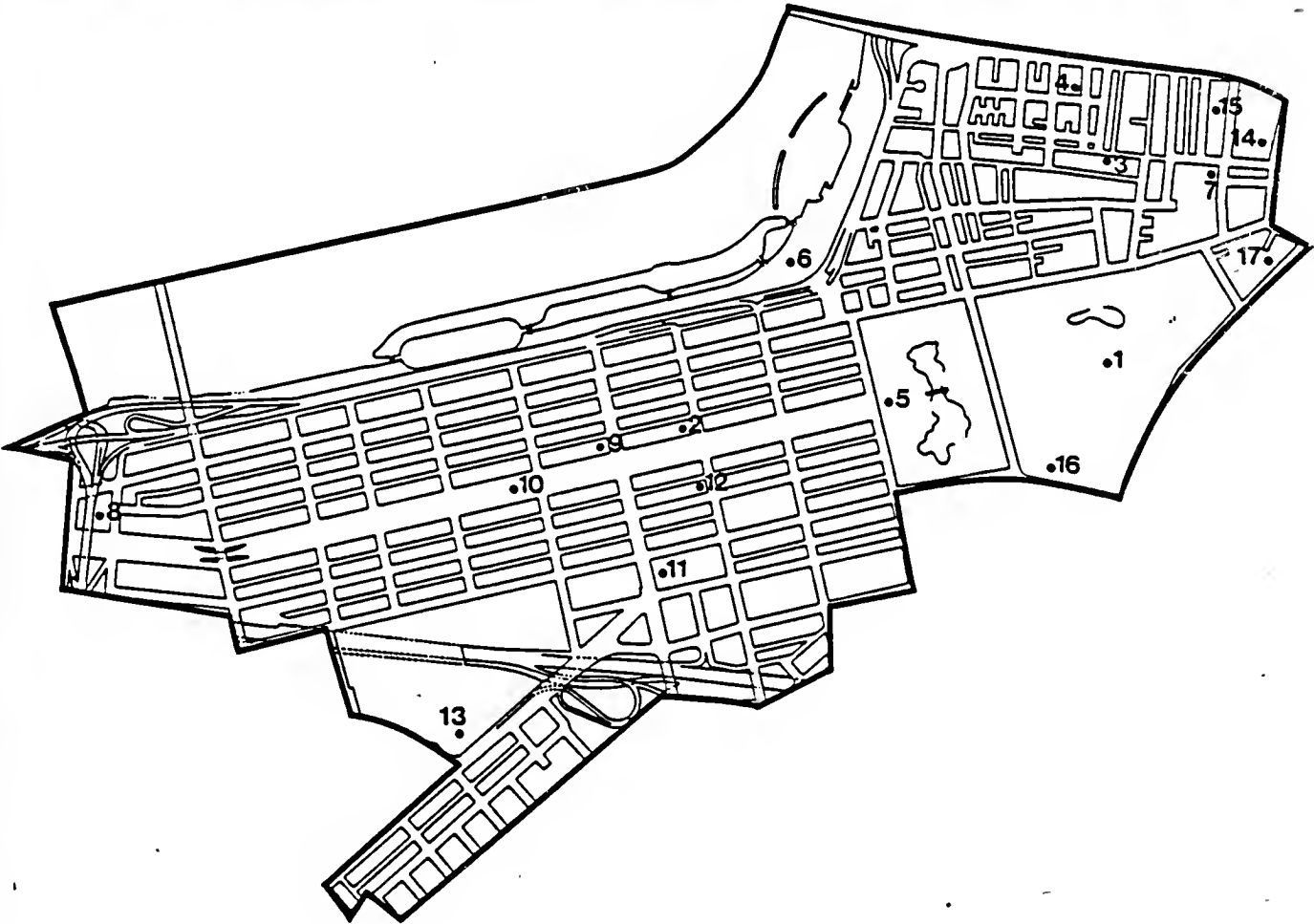
BB-7.	Not Within Scope of Survey	
BB-8.	Amory Square Dartmouth Street and Commonwealth Avenue	0.33
BB-9.	Charlesgate West Charlesgate West and Commonwealth Avenue	1.07
BB-10.	Commonwealth Avenue Mall Commonwealth Avenue	11.00
BB-11.	Copley Square Huntington Avenue, Boylston and Dartmouth Streets	1.88
BB-12.	Dartmouth Street Mall Dartmouth Street	0.69
BB-13. - 15.	Not Within Scope of Survey	

MOVED TO  
FENWAY/KENMORE



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Map of Neighborhood's Open Space









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

Site Name: BOSTON COMMON

Site Type: MULTI-PURPOSE PARK

Location: TREMONT, BEACON, CHARLES, BOYLESTON

Acreage: 13.5A 51 AC.

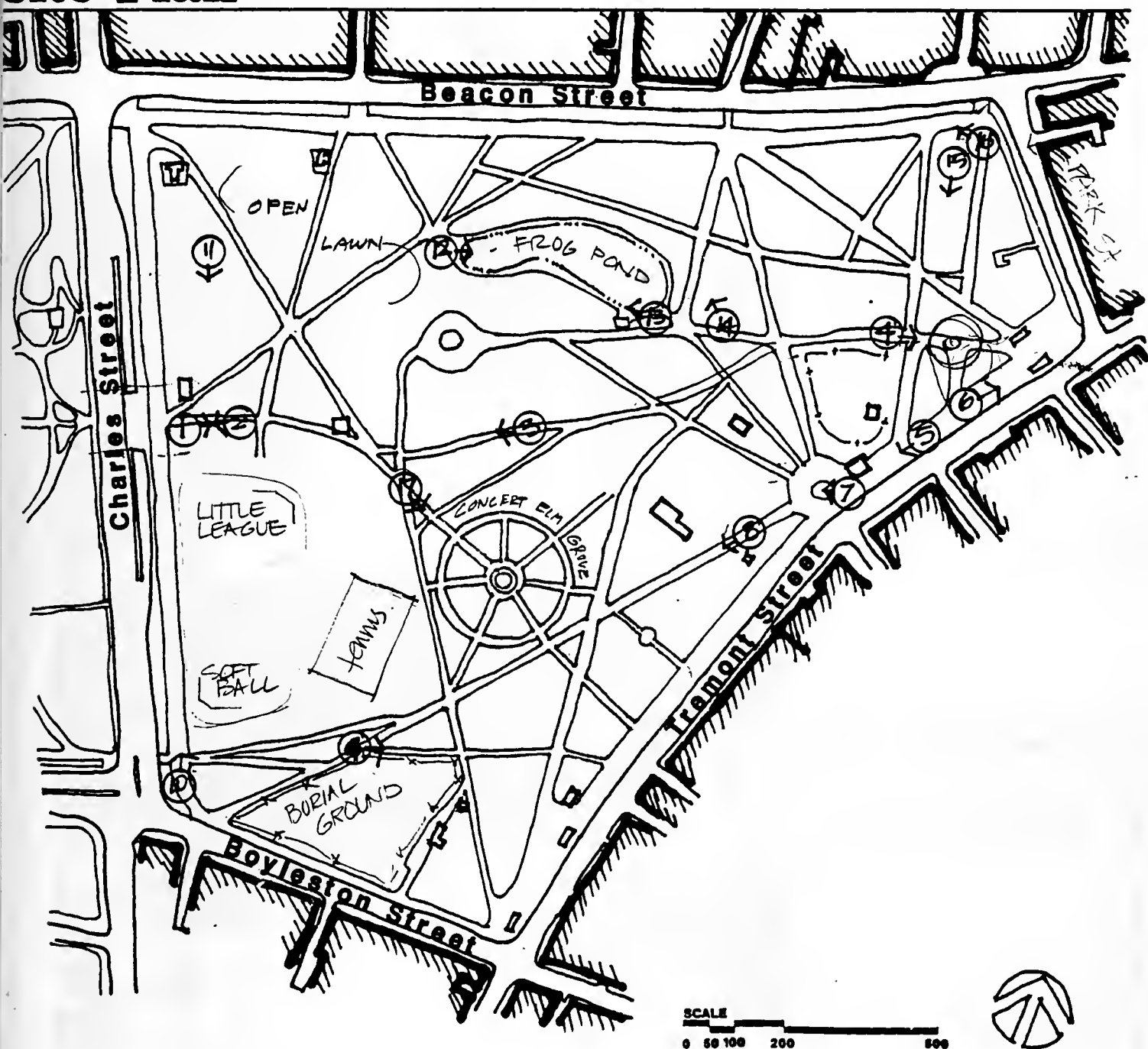
Evaluation Team: BCIH & SF

Weather Conditions: FAIR

Evaluation Date: 5.29.87

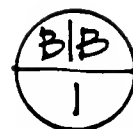
Surrounding Land Uses: COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL

## Site Plan









SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 1**

From main entrance  
opposite Public Gardens.  
New tree planting doing  
poorly.

**Site Photograph 2**

Looking back at  
entrance. Entry  
dominated by street  
vendors.

**Site Photograph 3**

Granite cobble edging  
installed to prevent  
areas of eroded grass.





SITE NO.



### Site Photograph 4

Fountain and public use area.



### Site Photograph 5

Information center--  
style of building out  
of character with  
surroundings.



### Site Photograph 6

Looking north toward  
Park Street MBTA station.





### Site Photograph 7

Granite bollards and chain-- an effective edging around flag pole area. Light fixtures out of character with park.



### Site Photograph 8

View through park-- a good example of general character of site-- full shade trees, green grass and sidewalks.



### Site Photograph 9

Vehicles should not park on grass.





SITE NO.

### Site Photograph 10

View along Charles  
Street.

### Site Photograph 11

Open lawn area above  
parking garage provides  
opportunities for free  
play.

### Site Photograph 12

Frog pond-- can be used  
for skating.







P.  
SITE NO.



**Site Photograph 13**

Pavement needs repair.



**Site Photograph 14**

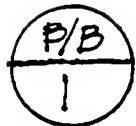
Tot lot-- well  
maintained and well  
used.



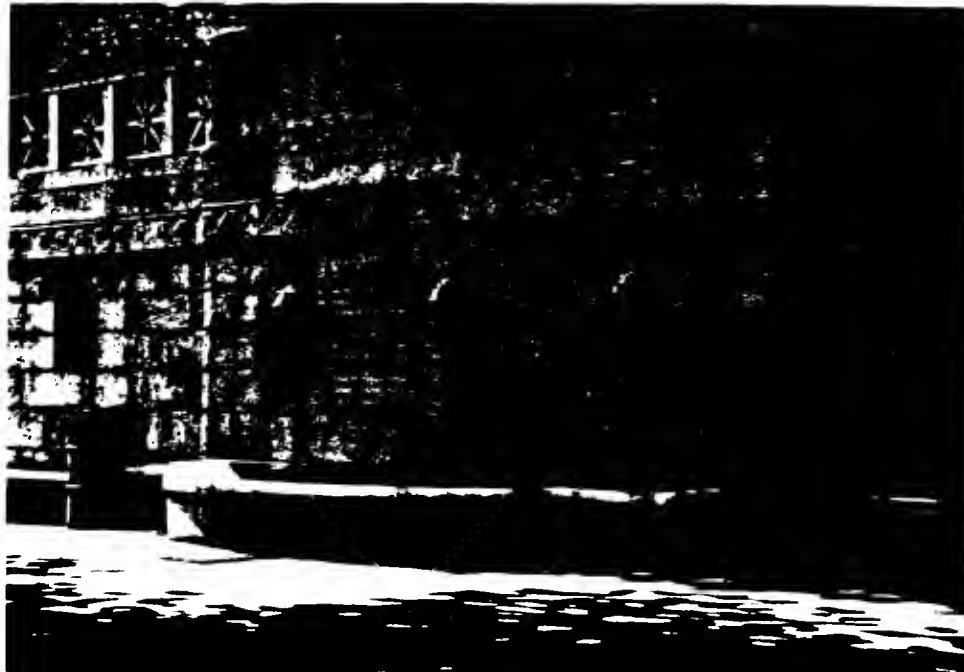
**Site Photograph 15**

View through site--  
shows temporary  
enclosure for  
construction.





SITE NO.

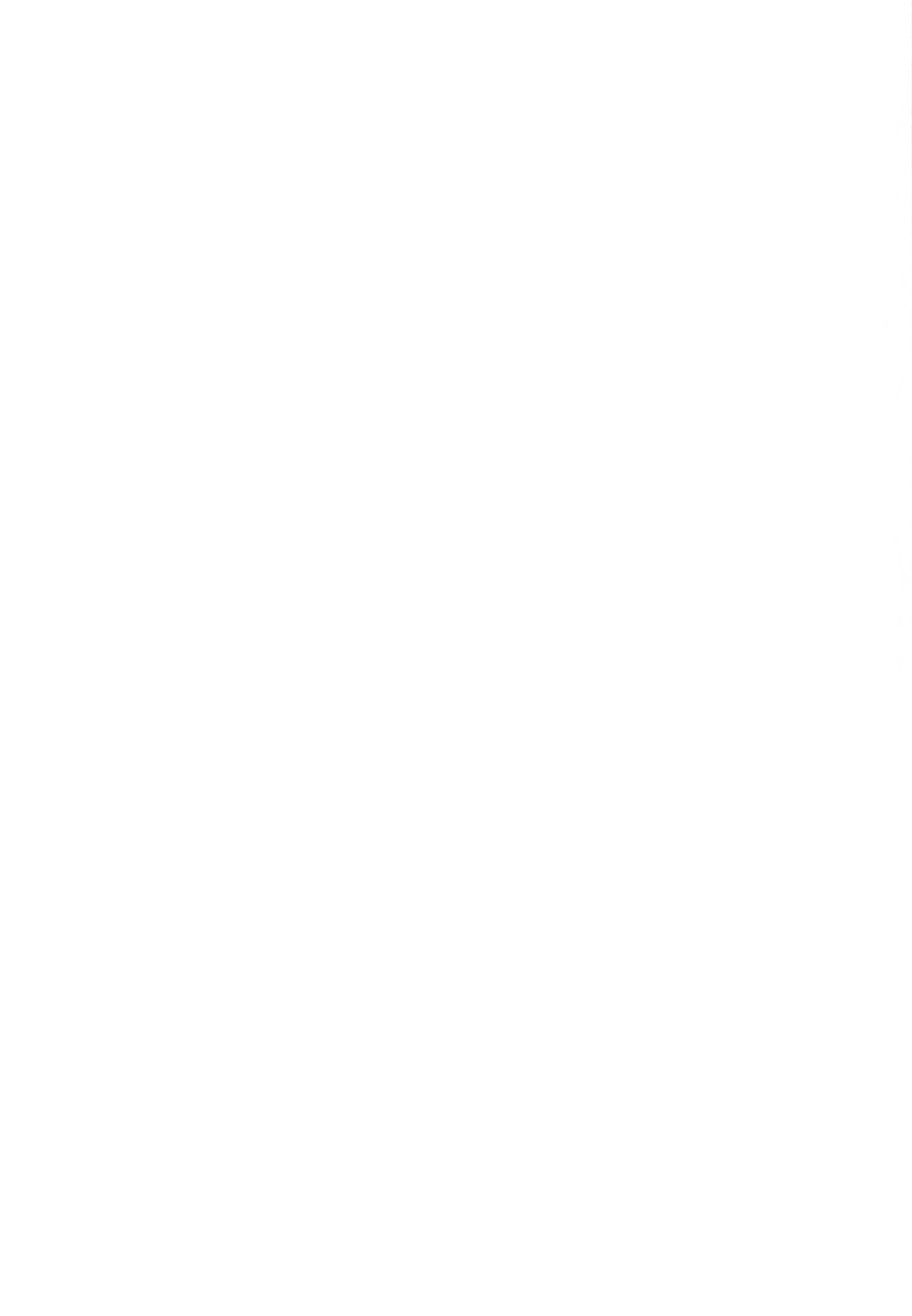
**Site Photograph 16**

Fountain-- not working.

**Site Photograph 17**

Bandstand.

**Site Photograph 18**



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: The Boston Common  
Location: Tremont, Boylston, Charles and Park Streets  
Acreage: 51 A  
Site Type: Multi-Purpose Park

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**Site Description:**

The Boston Common is a large, irregularly shaped site bordered by Charles Street and the Public Garden on the west, Boylston Street on the south, Beacon and Park Streets on the north and Tremont Street on the east. The Common is located in the center of Boston and is bordered by both commercial and residential areas. There is fencing along Beacon and Park Streets and adjacent to the burial grounds along the southern edge of the site. Most of the park consists of tree-covered expanses of lawns with one large open lawn in the northwest. Several statues, fountains and plazas serve as focal points. The park is well supplied with benches and lights. There are several active recreational facilities: a large spray area (the frog pond) located in the center of the park near Beacon Street, a small play-ground located to the east of the spray area, softball and little league fields, and tennis courts located in the southeast corner of the site. There is a bandstand and a comfort station in the center of the site near Park Street.

---

**Condition Assessments:**

- Most standard park-built elements are in good condition. The statues are in good condition, the bandstand in fair condition, and the comfort station is closed and appears to need major renovation. One fountain appears in fair to good condition but isn't working, and another is working and appears to be in good condition.
- Sports fields, tennis courts and play structures are in good condition. Most of the trees appear in good condition and have been pruned. The lawn areas vary considerably. Most are in fair condition. However, some large areas are in good condition and other large areas are in poor condition, mostly due to compaction by foot traffic. Renovations to various park elements are scheduled by the City.

---

**Major Site Issues:**

The Boston Common was the earliest public open space established in Boston. Today, its extensive walks, lawns and monuments epitomize the public communal experience of Boston and for that reason it holds a prominent position in the City's landscape.

Although, as a whole, the Common appears to be in fair to good condition, there are numerous renovations to structures necessary, many of which will be addressed in the currently proposed repair work. The greatest overall improvement to the appearance of the park can be gained from improving the lawn areas. Many areas are worn out and compacted, especially near prominent entry points and features. Some areas have an irregular surface and poor grass coverage. An active turf management program is essential, as well as the restriction of cars from driving on the grass.

In general, the design of the improvements along Tremont Street do not well reflect the landscape character of the Common, most particularly the information booth. The park's concrete pedestrian lights are also out of character with the original site improvements.

The entrance from the Public Garden's across Charles Street is not as successful as



it could be because the arrival area to the Common is dominated by the entrance to and exit from the underground parking garage as well as by the headhouses to the garage. This entrance to the Common is also hidden behind juniper plantings. This area should be more elaborately conceived and richer, to act as both connection to and transition from the elaborate Gardens landscape. This area of the Common has been compromised by the development of sports fields and courts. Use of the Common for athletic facilities is inappropriate and disruptive of a passive landscape designed to be available to many people for a variety of uses. Softening by use of plantings and screening of the fields would mitigate their negative impact on the site. Intensive uses such as "Concerts on the Common" are also inappropriate because of the damage they cause to the landscape and because of their disruption of other, particularly passive, activities.

✓  
Delete

Edith





# DRAFT

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**DRAFT**

Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: The Boston Common

No.: BB-1

Location: Tremont, Boylston, Charles and Park Streets

Acreage: 51 A

Site Type: Multi-Purpose Park

**Site Description:**

The Boston Common is a large, irregularly shaped site bordered by Charles Street and the Public Garden on the west, Boylston Street on the south, Beacon and Park Streets on the north and Tremont Street on the east. The Common is located in the center of Boston and is bordered by both commercial and residential areas. There is fencing along Beacon and Park Streets and adjacent to the burial grounds along the southern edge of the site. Most of the park consists of tree-covered expanses of lawns with one large open lawn in the northwest. Several statues, fountains and plazas serve as focal points. The park is well supplied with benches and lights. There are several active recreational facilities: a large spray area (the frog pond) located in the center of the park near Beacon Street, a small playground located to the east of the spray area, softball and little league fields and tennis courts located in the southeast corner of the site. There is a bandstand and a comfort station in the center of the site near Park Street.

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**Major Site Issues:**

The Boston Common was the earliest public open space established in Boston. Today, its extensive walks, lawns and monuments epitomize the public communal experience of Boston and for that reason it holds a prominent position in the City's landscape.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SITE SUMMARY



SITE NO.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	Unimproved pedestrian walkways through site requiring local circulation needs, access to ball courts & active & passive areas. well planted with mature trees & grass & some shrubs & flower plantings along Tremont St
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	curb cuts at street & paved areas throughout park
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	adequate
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	limited to some quality & broken lights
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	No
DRAINAGE CONDITION	
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	
VANDALISM	
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	limited by size of park
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE	
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	Good
SPORTS FACILITIES	good
PLAYGROUNDS	good
BUILDINGS Buildings associated	it is underground parking - good Bandstand, & Men's room bldg - fair
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	trees good Gr. is - mostly fair with good & poor areas

PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

Site Name: CLARENDON TOT LOT

Site Type: Playlot

Location: CLARENDON & COMMONWEALTH

Acreage: 0.33A

Evaluation Team: SF & PTH

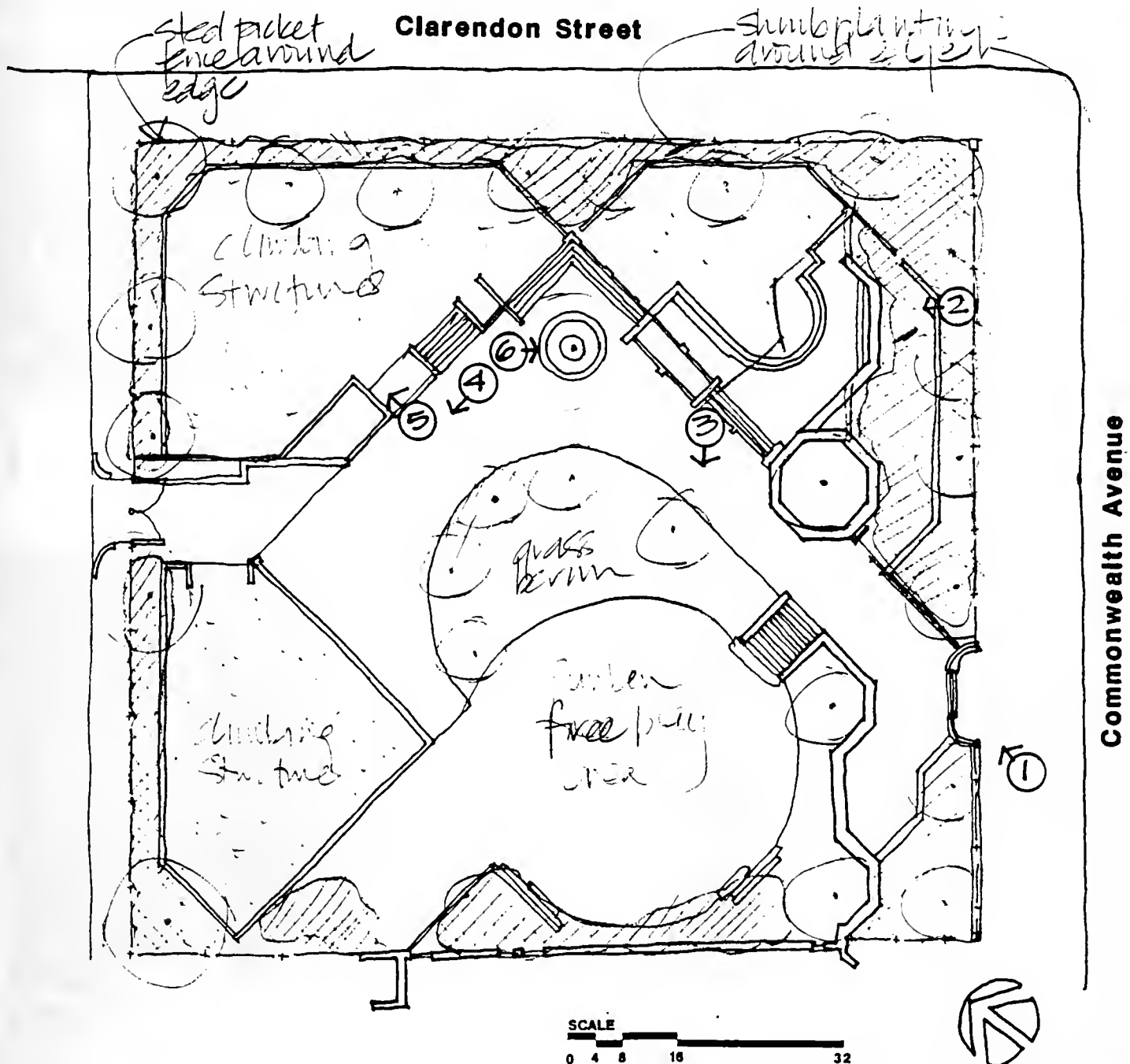
Weather Conditions:

Evaluation Date: 5.22.87

Sunny

Surrounding Land Uses: Residential

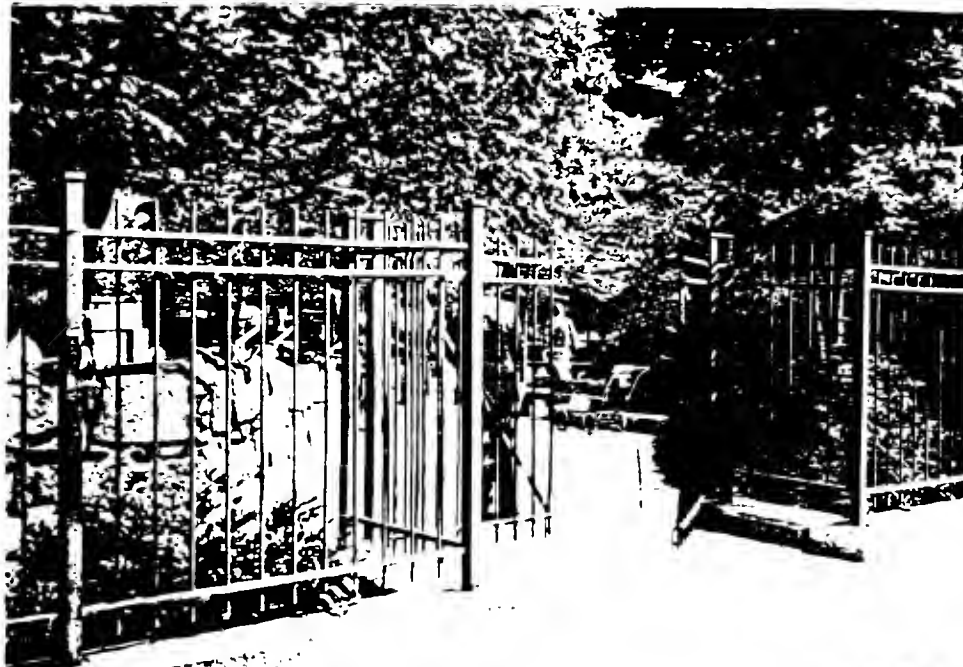
## Site Plan







SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 1**

Steel picket fence  
on granite mow-strip.  
Recessed gate makes an  
inviting entrance.  
Healthy planting along  
edge.

**Site Photograph 2**

View shows timber and  
metal play structures.  
Trees along fence  
define edge and provide  
shade.

**Site Photograph 3**

Sunken free play area  
with flowering shrubs  
at base of wall.  
Grassed slope in  
foreground with  
Birch trees.





SITE NO.



#### Site Photograph 4

Timber and metal  
play structures.



#### Site Photograph 5

Illustrates how close  
tire swings are to  
support post.



#### Site Photograph 6

Honeylocust developing  
thorns. Should be  
removed from trunk and  
lower limbs to be  
removed as necessary.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Clarendon Tot Lot  
Location: Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue  
Acreage: 0.33 A  
Site Type: Play Lot

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**Site Description:**

Clarendon Tot Lot is a small square site on the corner of Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue. To the west is a five-story townhouse and to the north an alleyway. The park is enclosed with six-foot steel picket fencing, shrubbery and trees. The park is divided into four play areas surrounding a small bermed grass area. Three areas have play structures and the fourth, a lower area, is covered with mulch for free play. Most of the shrub plantings are located within raised planters.

---

**Condition Assessments:**

All standard park-built elements are in good condition. The plantings are in extraordinarily good condition, given the high intensity of use. The play structures are in generally good condition. Some elements need repair.

---

**Major Site Issues:**

The design of Clarendon Tot Lot has successfully created an enhanced sense of space in a relatively small area. This park appears as a beautiful play garden because of the unusual growth and vigor of the shrub and flower plantings. This success is undoubtedly due to the high level of adult supervision of children's play as well as the fact that the park is equipped with a lockable gate. The locust tree in the park, a thornless variety, is reverting back to a thorny condition, which occasionally happens. The tree needs to be limbed up and the trunk sprouts removed.





Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Clarendon Tot Lot

No.: BB-2

Location: Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue

Acreage: 0.33 A

Site Type: Play Lot

Site Description:

Clarendon Tot Lot is a small square site on the corner of Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue. To the west is a five-story townhouse and to the north an alleyway. The park is enclosed with six foot steel picket fencing, shrubbery and trees. The park is divided into four play areas surrounding a small bermed grass area. Three areas have play structures and the fourth, a lower area, is covered with mulch for free play. Most of the shrub plantings are located within raised planters.

Condition Assessments:

All standard park built elements are in good condition. The plantings are in extraordinarily good condition, given the high intensity of use. The play structures are in generally good condition. Some elements need repair.

Major Site Issues:

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SITE NO.

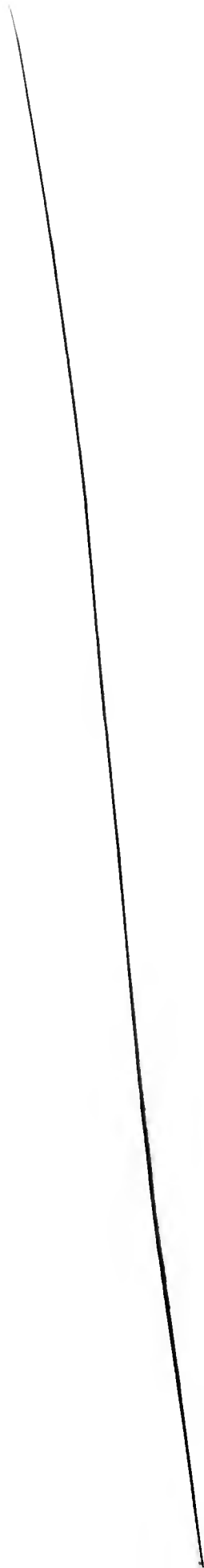
SITE SUMMARY

# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	1. Structures built into a green space active play
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	located within a green space with designed landscape
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	more for shade, ornamental trees and shrubs
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	adequate
DRAINAGE CONDITION	
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	
VANDALISM	None
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	No
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	limited by plant materials, shrubs well around 2nd floor level
HIDDEN CORNERS FROM SPACE	No
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	P.O. well steps, other paved area
SPORTS FACILITIES	
PLAYGROUNDS	all good
BUILDINGS	
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	good

PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:

degree of use and good addition of space, but a lot of the high degree of use is on the steps. The area is a good example of a green space that is well used and has a lot of use. The area is a good example of a green space that is well used and has a lot of use. The area is a good example of a green space that is well used and has a lot of use.



SITE NO.



[illegible]





BUILDINGS AND  
PLAYGROUNDS

ACCESS, CIRCULATION  
AND PARKING

## ACCESS, CIRCULATION AND PARKING



	QUANTITY	MATERIALS	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.
	# BUILDINGS / PLAYGROUNDS	ADEQUATE # ADEQUATE EQUIP. INADEQUATE # ADEQUATE # METAL WOOD METAL & WOOD CONCRETE SAND BARK MULCH ASPHALT OTHER EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR UNUSABLE WELL LOCATED POORLY LOCATED APPROPRIATELY EVIDENCE OF HANDLING SEATING PRESENT FENCING PRESENT SAFETY PROBLEMS EVIDENT			
BUILDINGS					
RECREATION					
RESTROOM					
STORAGE					
OTHER					
PLAYGROUNDS (GENERAL)	1			X	
EQUIPMENT:	7	1			Handwritten notes
SURFACE					
EDGING					
FENCING					
AGE DISTRIBUTION:					

[illegible]



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

NATURAL PARK  
ELEMENTS

p.9  
  
 SITE NO.

	QUANTITY	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.
TREES	25	EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
SHRUBS	25	EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
TURF	5	EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
GROUND COVER		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
FLOWER BEDS		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
GROUND		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
CONTAINER		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
WEED SPECIES		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
WOODS		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
PONDS		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
STREAMS		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	
SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL FEATURE/AREA		EXISTS	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	







# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

B/B  
3

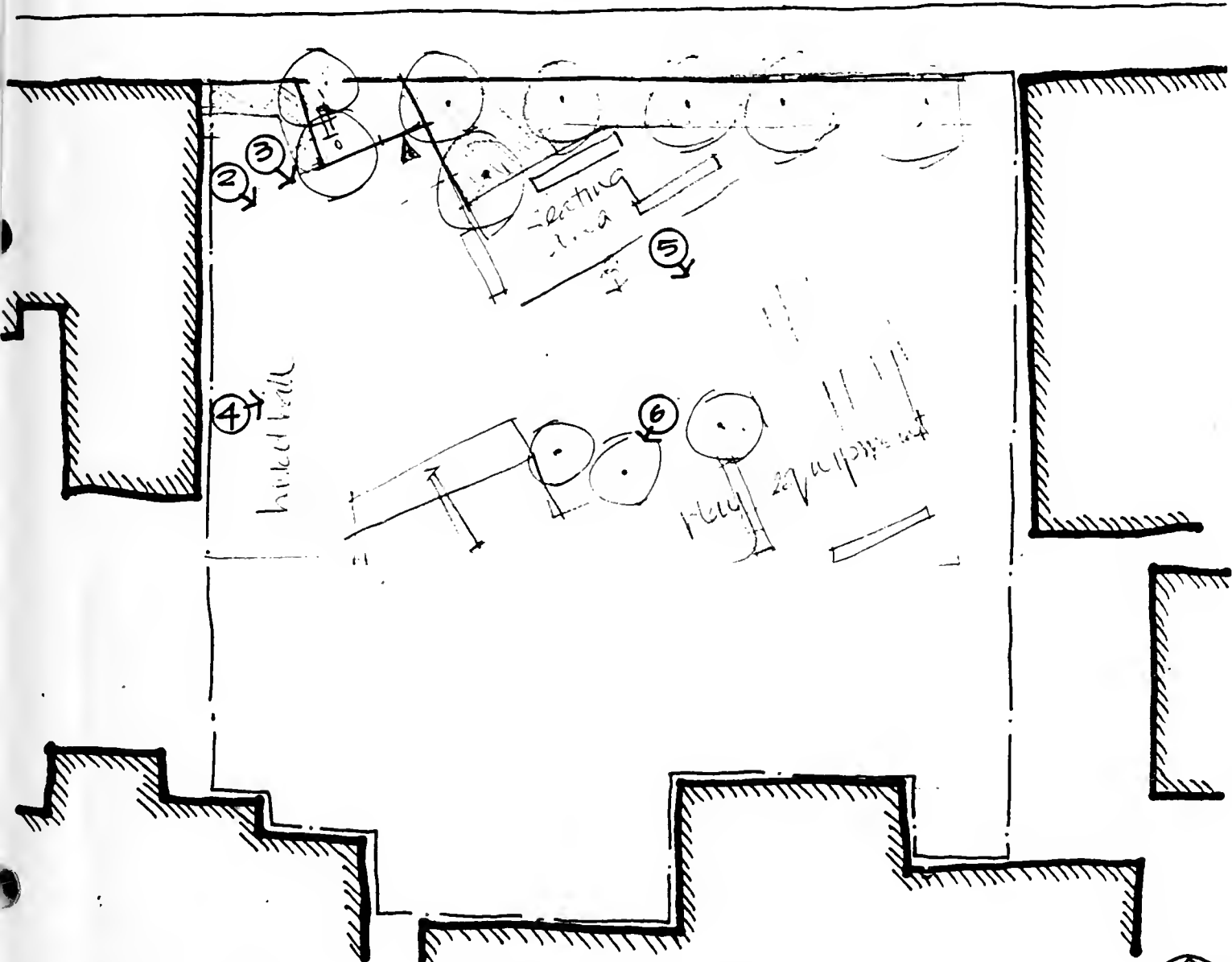
SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEXON HILL  
Site Name: MYRTLE STREET P.A.  
Location: MYRTLE & SOUTH RUSSEL  
Evaluation Team: BCH & SF  
Evaluation Date: 5.28.87  
Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

Site Type: PLAYLOT  
Acreage: 0.17A  
Weather Conditions:

## ① Site Plan

Myrtle Street



SCALE  
0 5 10 20 50





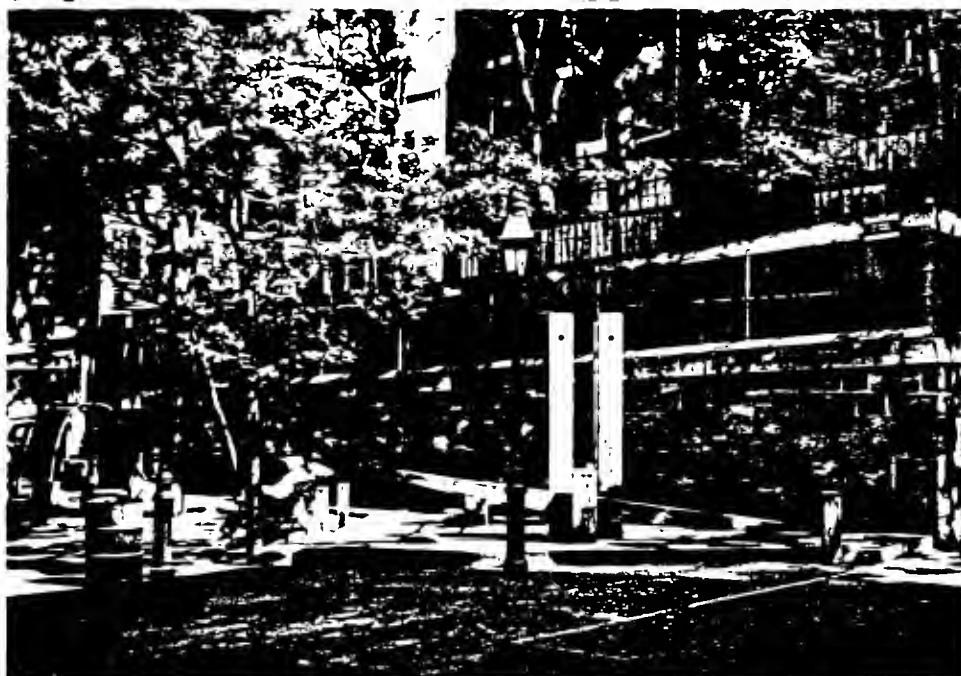




SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 1**

View into the park from across street. Shows steel picket fence around edge with indentation at entrance. Honeylocust provide tall canopy of filtered shade.

**Site Photograph 2**

Timber play structures.

**Site Photograph 3**

Play equipment in far corner with seating areas in foreground. Gas lamps an easy target for vandals.





SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 4**

Raised sitting area  
with planted area  
behind.

**Site Photograph 5**

Unusable spray  
feature.

**Site Photograph 6**

Inadequate planting  
pit. Note rotting  
wood edging around  
edge of safety  
surface play area.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Myrtle Street Play Area  
Location: Myrtle and South Russell Streets  
Acreage: 0.17 A  
Site Type: Playlot

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**Site Description:**

Myrtle Street Play Area is a small square site on the south side of Myrtle Street. The park is surrounded on the other three sides by townhouses. There is an iron picket fence along Myrtle Street. There are wooden and metal play structures in the southern half of the park. Planting beds and a sitting area are located along the northern edge adjacent to Myrtle Street. The western half of the site once had a basketball court which has been removed.

---

**Condition Assessments:**

The benches, paving, fencing and most of the lights are in good condition. The glass is broken on a number of lights. Most of the wood edging and stairs are starting to rot and are in fair to poor condition. The play structure is in fair to poor condition. The trees and shrubs are in fair condition. Renovations to the playground are scheduled by the City.

---

**Major Site Issues:**

Myrtle Street Play Area is laid out at a 45° angle to Myrtle Street and the surrounding buildings. While this was most probably an attempt to develop a more dynamic space than the City grid might allow, it instead produces a tension between park and surroundings, and creates awkward angular planting beds. The park entrance is also somewhat pinched.

Although the gas lighting fixtures are delightful, historic gestures, the glass of the light is a target for play or vandalism.

The site's vegetation is in fair condition, except for the junipers which do not tolerate shade well and are doing poorly under the shade of the locust trees. The park is predominantly paved and more areas of vegetation could be developed. Species should be used that are shade tolerant. In implementing renovations to the park, care should be taken to protect the trees. The best re-use for the former basketball court area should be determined.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Myrtle Street Play Area  
Location: Myrtle and South Russell Streets  
Acreage: 0.17 A Site Type: Playlot

No.: BB-3

**Site Description:** Myrtle Street Play Area is a small square site on the south side of Myrtle Street. The park is surrounded on the other three sides by townhouses. There is an iron picket fence along Myrtle Street. There are wooden and metal play structures in the southern half of the park. Planting beds and a sitting area are located along the northern edge adjacent to Myrtle Street. The western half of the site once had a basketball court which has been removed.

**Condition Assessments:** The benches, paving, fencing and most of the lights are in good condition. The glass is broken on a number of lights. Most of the wood edging and stairs are starting to rot and are in fair to poor condition. The play structure is in fair to poor condition. The trees and shrubs are in fair condition. Renovations to the playground are scheduled by the City.

**Major Site Issues:** Myrtle Street Play Area is laid out at a 45° angle to Myrtle Street and the surrounding buildings. While this was most probably an attempt to develop a more dynamic space than the City grid might allow, it instead produces a tension between park and surroundings, and creates awkward angular planting beds. The park entrance is also somewhat pinched.

Although the gas lighting fixtures are delightful, historic gestures, the glass of the light is a target for play or vandalism.

The site's vegetation is in fair condition, except for the Junipers which do not tolerate shade well and are doing poorly under the shade of the Locust trees. The park is predominantly paved and more areas of vegetation could be developed. Species should be used that are shade tolerant. In implementing renovations to the park, care should be taken to protect the trees. The best re-use for the former basketball court area should be determined.





P. 5



**PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:**

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	Location in area: Pleasant Hill, CA
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	Building footprint, site plan
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	Native plants, drought tolerant
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	Community center, library
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	Level surface, ramps
DRAINAGE CONDITION	Grass, permeable pavers
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	Water, electricity, security
VANDALISM	Low risk, secure
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	No
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	Yes
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	Yes
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE	No
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	Playground, picnic area
SPORTS FACILITIES	No
PLAYGROUNDS	Yes
BUILDINGS	No
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	Native plants, trees



SITE NO.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SPORTS FACILITIES

B/B  
3

SITE NO.

	QUANTITY	MATERIALS	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.
BASKETBALL:	AMOUNT	SKINNED INFIELD	EXCELLENT	APPROPRIATE	TEAM SEATING
SURFACE	INADEQUATE #	STONE DUST	GOOD	POORLY LOCATED	SPACING
BACKBOARD/HOOP	ADEQUATE #	ASPHALT	UNUSABLE	WELL LOCATED (SNOW)	FENCING PRESENT
TENNIS:		METAL	POOR	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
BANGBOARD		GRASS	FAIR	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
FENCING			GOOD	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
SURFACE			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
NET POLES			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
OTHER COURT:			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
BASEBALL:			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
BACKSTOP			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
INFIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
OUTFIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
LITTLE LEAGUE:			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
BACKSTOP			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
INFIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
OUTFIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
SOFTBALL:			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
BACKSTOP			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
INFIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
OUTFIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
FOOTBALL: FIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
SOCCER: FIELD			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
OTHER FIELD:			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING
OTHER FACILITY:			EXCELLENT	UNAVAILABLE	SPACING



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

## BUILDINGS AND PLAYGROUNDS

p. 8

## ACCESS, CIRCULATION AND PARKING



**SITE NO.**

	QUANTITY	MATERIALS	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.
	# BUILDINGS/ PLAY GROUNDS	ADEQUATE # ADEQUATE EQUIP.	ADEQUATE # INAPPROPRIATE	WOOD METAL & WOOD CONCRETE SAND BARK MULCH ASPHALT OTHER EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR UNUSABLE WELL LOCATED POORLY LOCATED INAPPROPRIATE EVIDENCE OF VANDALISM SEATING PRESENT FENCING PRESENT SAFETY PROBLEMS EVIDENT	
BUILDINGS					
RECREATION					
RESTROOM					
STORAGE					
OTHER					
PLAYGROUNDS (GENERAL)	1				
EQUIPMENT:	6	115	23		
SURFACE					
EDGING					
FENCING					
AGE DISTRIBUTION:					

[illegible]





# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

NATURAL PARK  
ELEMENTS

**EB**  
**3**

SITE NO.

QUANTITY	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.	TREES	SHRUBS	TURF	GROUND COVER	FLOWER BEDS	GROUND	CONTAINER	WEED SPECIES	WOODS	PONDS	STREAMS	SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL FEATURE/AREA
EXISTS															
QUANTITY															
ESTIMATED COUNT															
MAINTENANCE															
REMOVAL															
# COVERAGE															
UNRATABLE															
WELL LOCATED															
POORLY LOCATED															
APPROPRIATE															
UNRATABLE															
EVIDENCE OF															
WANDERISM															

view of ground, not the view of  
view of ground, not the view of







# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

B/B  
4

SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

Site Name: PHILLIPS STREET P.A.

Location: PHILLIPS

Evaluation Team: BCH & SF

Evaluation Date: 5.23.2017

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

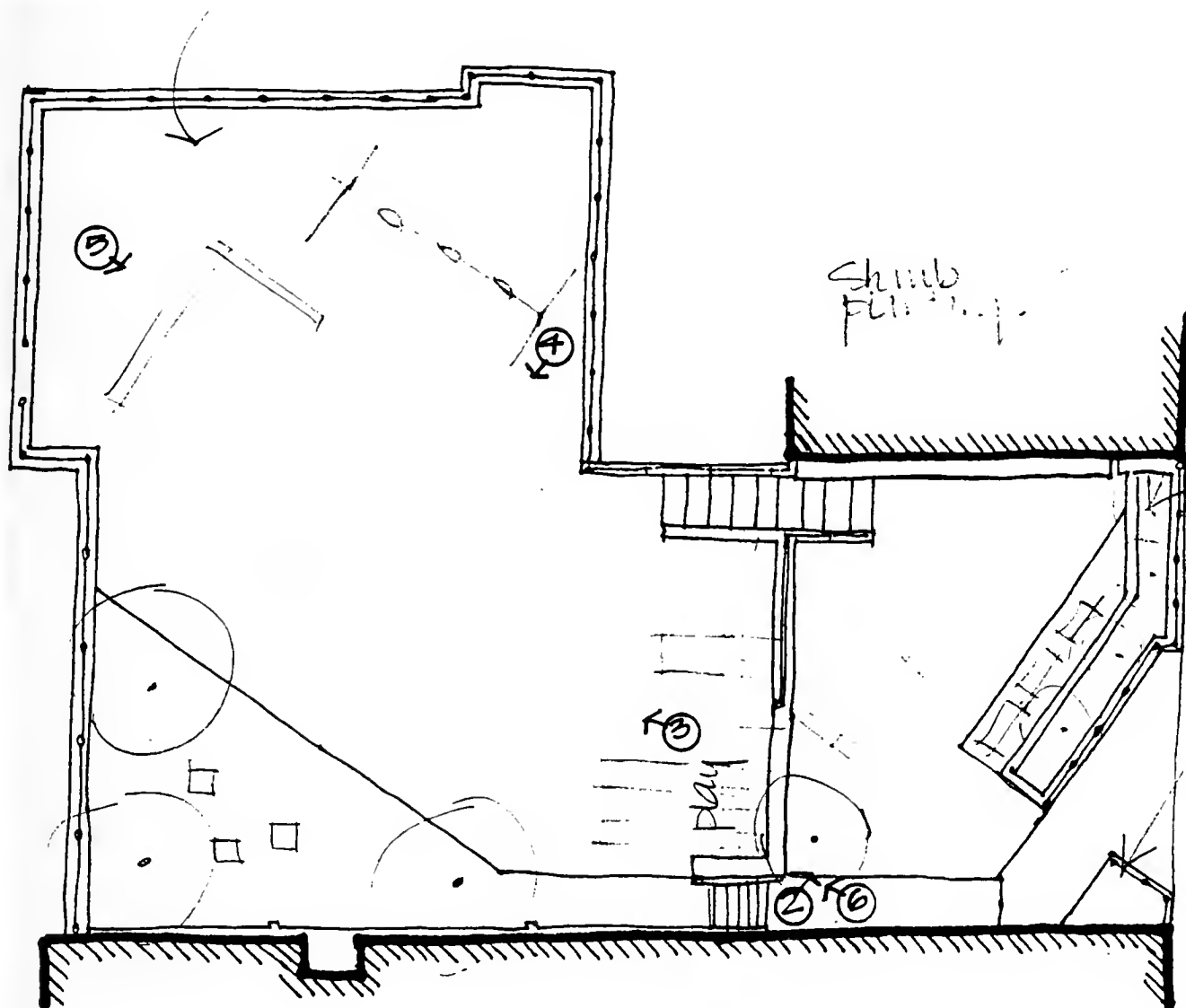
Site Type: PLAY LOT

Acreage: 0.13A

Weather Conditions:

## Site Plan

seating needed in this area to catch evening sun



SCALE

0 5 10 20 50





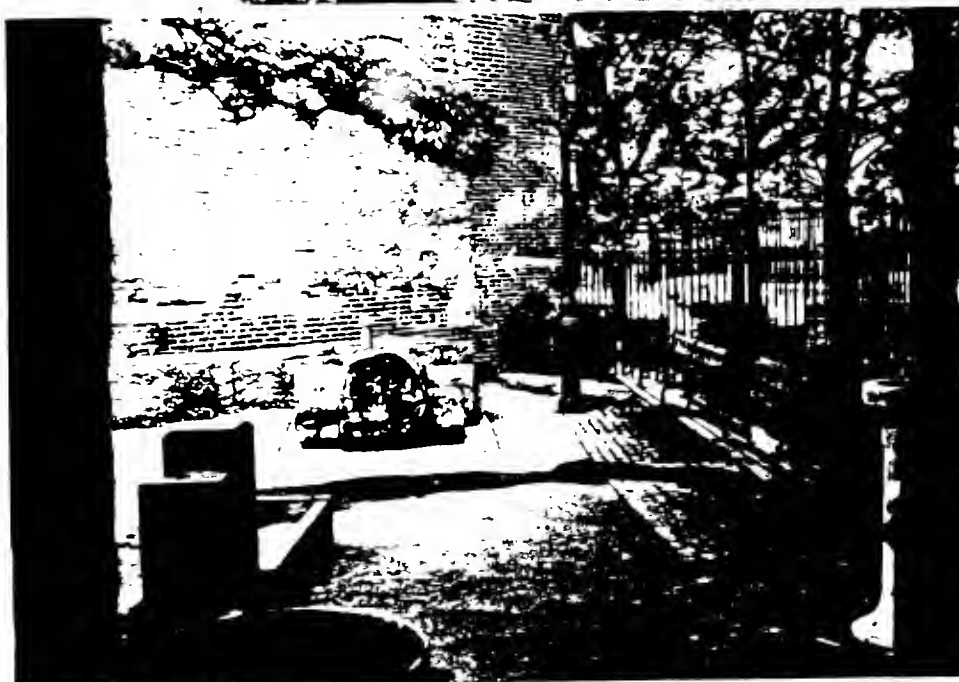
BIB  
4

SITE NO.



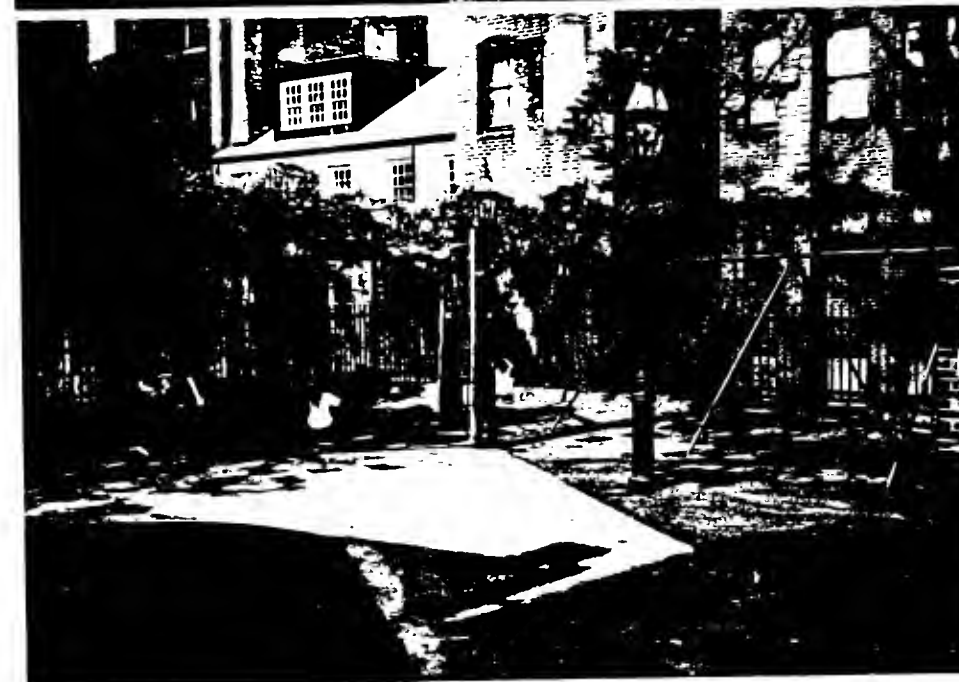
### Site Photograph 1

Park front edged with decorative metal fence with plant bed behind entrance indented.



### Site Photograph 2

Upper level sitting area and broken spray equipment.



### Site Photograph 3

Lower level play equipment, tire swings unusable. Benches needed in far corner.







SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 4**

Game tables and  
benches.

**Site Photograph 5**

Basketball area with  
no backboard. Slides  
and climbing equipment  
built up against  
terrace wall.

**Site Photograph 6**

View from upper level.  
Wisteria from  
neighboring property  
enhancing park edge.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Phillips Street Play Area  
Location: Phillips Street  
Acreage: 0.13 A  
Site Type: Playlot

---

---

**Site Description:**

Phillips Street Play Area is a small, irregularly shaped park on the north side of Phillips Street bordered by the walls of residences on the east and west. There is a garden of an abutting apartment building to the north. The Phillips Street edge is enclosed with a steel picket fence. The site consists of two terrace levels. The upper terrace adjacent to Phillips Street has a small play structure and sitting area with trees and shrub beds. Two stairs, one on the east edge and one on the west, lead down to a lower play area with a basketball court, game tables and play structures. Play structures are attached to the wall between the two terraces.

---

**Condition Assessments:**

Most standard-park built elements are in good condition except for some gas lamps which are in fair or poor condition because the glass has been broken. The paving is generally in good condition as are the trees, shrubs and groundcovers. The play structures are mostly in fair to good condition, except for a few which are in poor condition. A tire swing is missing and needs replacement.

---

**Major Site Issues:**

There are many positive elements to the design of Phillips Street Play Area. The decorative metal fence along Phillips Street and the shrub planting along this side provide a strong edge and inviting presence on the street. The connection of the terraces by means of play structures is innovative, although there should be a railing along the top of the wall. The park is fortunate to abut a garden and share the lush vegetation.

The small size of the park and the lack of visibility into the lower terrace from the street are its major limitations. If the lower-level sitting area had been located in the east corner of the space, it could have taken advantage of evening sun. The historic gas lamps are attractive features of the park, but unfortunately vulnerable to breakage.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Phillips Street Play Area  
Location: Phillips Street  
Acreage: 0.13 A Site Type: Playlot

No.: BB-4

**Site Description:** Phillips Street Play Area is a small, irregularly shaped park on the north side of Phillips Street bordered by the walls of residences on the east and west. There is a garden of an abutting apartment building to the north. The Phillips Street edge is enclosed with a steel picket fence. The site consists of two terrace levels. The upper terrace adjacent to Phillips Street has a small play structure and sitting area with trees and shrub beds. Two stairs, one on the east edge and one on the west, lead down to a lower play area with a basketball court, game tables and play structures. Play structures are attached to the wall between the two terraces.

**Condition Assessments:** Most standard park built elements are in good condition except for some gas lamps which are in fair or poor condition because the glass has been broken. The paving is generally in good condition as are the trees, shrubs and groundcovers. The play structures are mostly in fair to good condition, except for a few which are in poor condition. A tire swing is missing and needs replacement.

**Major Site Issues:** There are many positive elements to the design of Phillips Street Play Area. The decorative metal fence along Phillips Street and the shrub planting along this side provide a strong edge and inviting presence on the street. The connection of the terraces by means of play structures is innovative, although there should be a railing along the top of the wall. The park is fortunate to abut a garden and share the lush vegetation.

The small size of the park and the lack of visibility into the lower terrace from the street are its major limitations. If the lower-level sitting area had been located in the east corner of the space, it could have taken advantage of evening sun. The historic gas lamps are attractive features of the park, but unfortunately vulnerable to breakage.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

P. 2

SITE SUMMARY



SITE NO.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	
DRAINAGE CONDITION	
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	
VANDALISM	
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE	
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	
SPORTS FACILITIES	
PLAYGROUNDS	
BUILDINGS	
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	

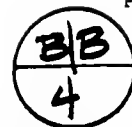
PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:

Handwritten notes describing site issues, including mentions of 'play area', 'vacant lot', 'barrier free', and 'visibility'.





STANDARD PARK  
BUILT ELEMENTS



SITE NO.

	QUANTITY	MATERIALS	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.
	AMOUNT ADEQUATE # INADEQUATE #	WOOD CONCRETE WOOD & CONCRETE WOOD & METAL STONE BRICK CHAIN LINK BIT. CHAIN OTHER CONCRETE EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR UNUSABLE UNRAVAILABLE WELL LOCATED (SNOW) POORLY LOCATED INAPPROPRIATENESS EVIDENCE OF HANDLERS			
BENCHES, PARK	1	X			
BICYCLE RACKS	1				
BLEACHERS	1				
BOLLARDS	1				
CATCHBASINS	2		X		
CURBS	1				
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	1				
DUMPSTERS	1				
FENCES	1	X			
GAME TABLES	1	X			
LIGHTING	1				
PEDESTRIAN:	9	X	621		
PARKING/ROAD:	1				
SPORTS	1				
MONUMENTS	1				
PICNIC TABLES	1				
RAILINGS	1				
RAMP	1	X			
SERVICE GATES	1	X			
SIGNS, ENTRY	1				
STAIRS	2				
TRASH RECEPTACLES:	1	X			
WALLS	1				
WATER FEATURES	1				
OTHER	1				





SITE NO.

	QUANTITY			MATERIALS										CONDITION								LOCATION				MISC.		
	AMOUNT	INADEQUATE #	ADAPTABLE #	SKINNED INFELD	SODDED INFELD	STONE DUST	ASPHALT	METAL	GRASS	OTHER	% COVERAGE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNUSABLE	UNSATABLE	WELL LOCATED (SNOW)	POORLY LOCATED	APPLY LOCATED	EVIDENCE OF	ADVANCE OF	LANDSLIDE	LIGHTING PRESENT	TEAM SEATING	SEATING PRESENT	FENCING PRESENT	
BASKETBALL:																												
SURFACE																												
BACKBOARD/HOOP																												
TENNIS:																												
BANGBOARD																												
FENCING																												
SURFACE																												
NET POLES																												
OTHER COURT:																												
BASEBALL:																												
BACKSTOP																												
INFELD																												
OUTFIELD																												
LITTLE LEAGUE:																												
BACKSTOP																												
INFELD																												
OUTFIELD																												
SOFTBALL:																												
BACKSTOP																												
INFELD																												
OUTFIELD																												
FOOTBALL: FIELD																												
SOCCER: FIELD																												
OTHER FIELD:																												
OTHER FACILITY:		</																										



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

BUILDINGS AND  
PLAYGROUNDS

ACCESS, CIRCULATION  
AND PARKING

2/3  
4

SITE NO.

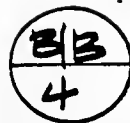
	QUANTITY	MATERIALS	CONDITION	LOCATION	MISC.
BUILDINGS					
RECREATION					
RESTROOM					
STORAGE					
OTHER					
PLAYGROUNDS (GENERAL)					
EQUIPMENT:					
SURFACE					
EDGING					
FENCING					
AGE DISTRIBUTION:					

	SURFACE CONDITION	MATERIALS	ORGANIZATION	ACCESS	PARKING
ACCESS, CIRCULATION AND PARKING					
PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION					
VEHICULAR CIRCULATION					
PEDESTRIAN ACCESS					
VEHICULAR ACCESS					
MAINTENANCE ACCESS					
ACCESS CONTROL:					



NATURAL PARK  
ELEMENTS

# NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS



# SITE NC

	QUANTITY		CONDITION		LOCATION		MISC.
	EXISTS	QUANTITY	REMOVAL	# COVERAGE	UNSATURABLE (SNOW)	POORLY LOCATED	
TREES	1	1					
SHRUBS	1	1					
TURF	1	1					
GROUND COVER	1	1					
FLOWER BEDS	1	1					
GROUND	1	1					
CONTAINER	1	1					
WEED SPECIES	1	1					
WOODS	1	1					
PONDS	1	1					
STREAMS	1	1					
SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL FEATURE/AREA	1	1					









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

Site Name: PUBLIC GARDEN

Site Type: PARK

Location: ARLINGTON, BEACON, BOYLSTON, CHARLES

Acreage: 24.25A

Evaluation Team: SF & EH

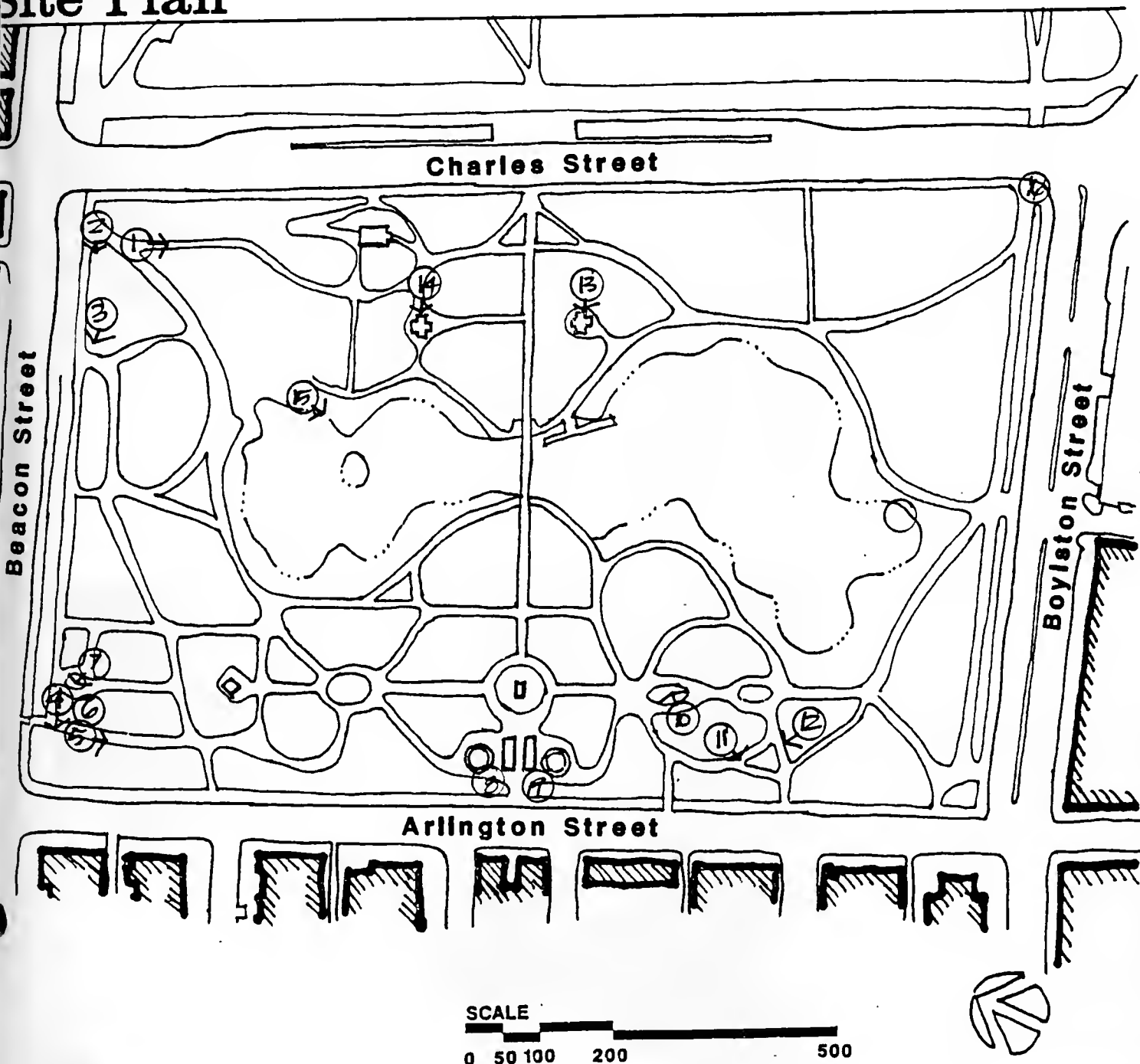
Weather Conditions:

Evaluation Date: 5.29.87

Fair

Surrounding Land Uses: Residential / Commercial

## Site Plan







SITE NO.



### Site Photograph 1

View from entrance into park. At left, grass eroded by foot traffic. At right, post and chain-- very effective at keeping people off grass.



### Site Photograph 2

Shrub and ornamental plant beds along edge of park. Cobble edge protects planting beds.



### Site Photograph 3

Pruning of shrubs allows natural, graceful character of plants to exist.





**Site Photograph 4**

Fountain-- not working.



**Site Photograph 5**

Signage and lighting fixtures help to establish character of park.

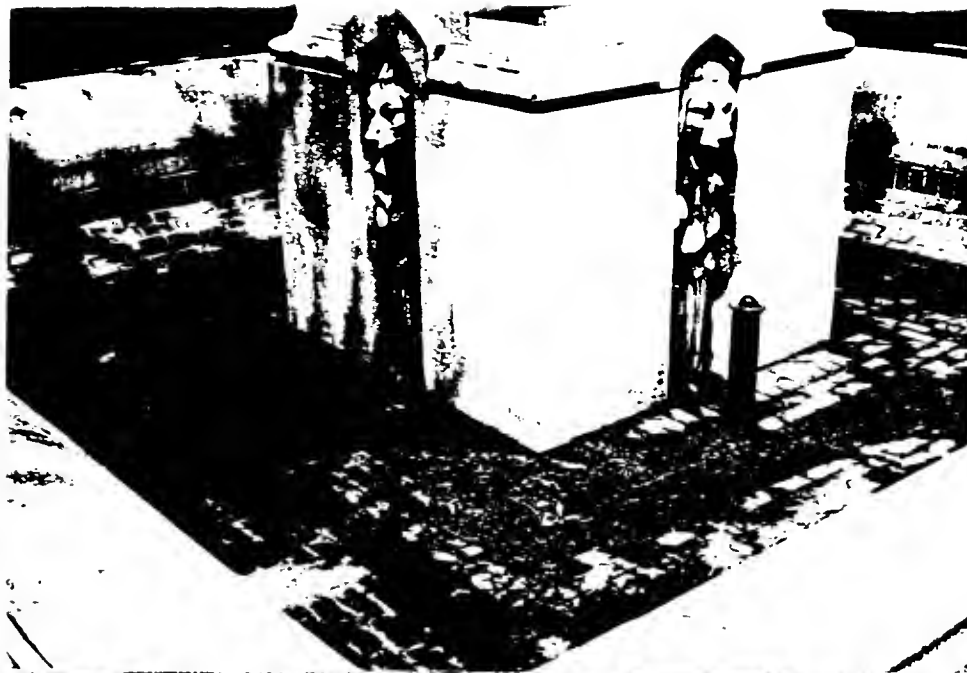


**Site Photograph 6**

A plant bed that is underplanted.







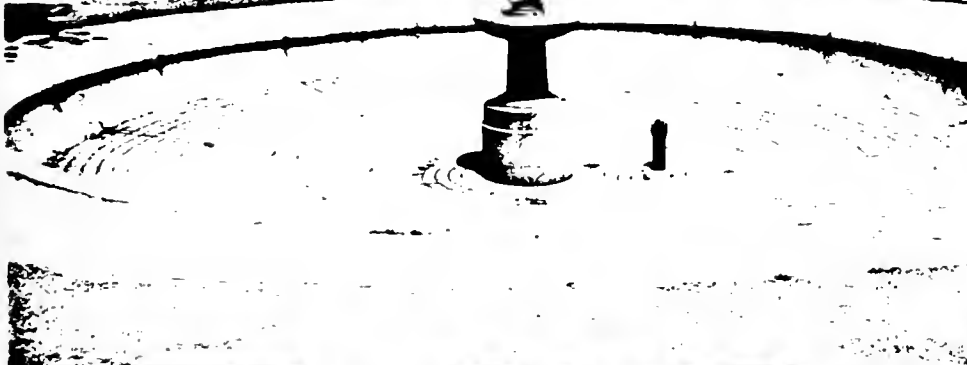
Site Photograph 7

A fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 8

A fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 9

A fountain-- not working.







SITE NO.

### Site Photograph 10

Roses in plant bed--  
roses need improved  
pruning to remove dead  
growth.



### Site Photograph 11

Desire lines through  
park eroding grass and  
compacting soil over  
tree roots.



### Site Photograph 12

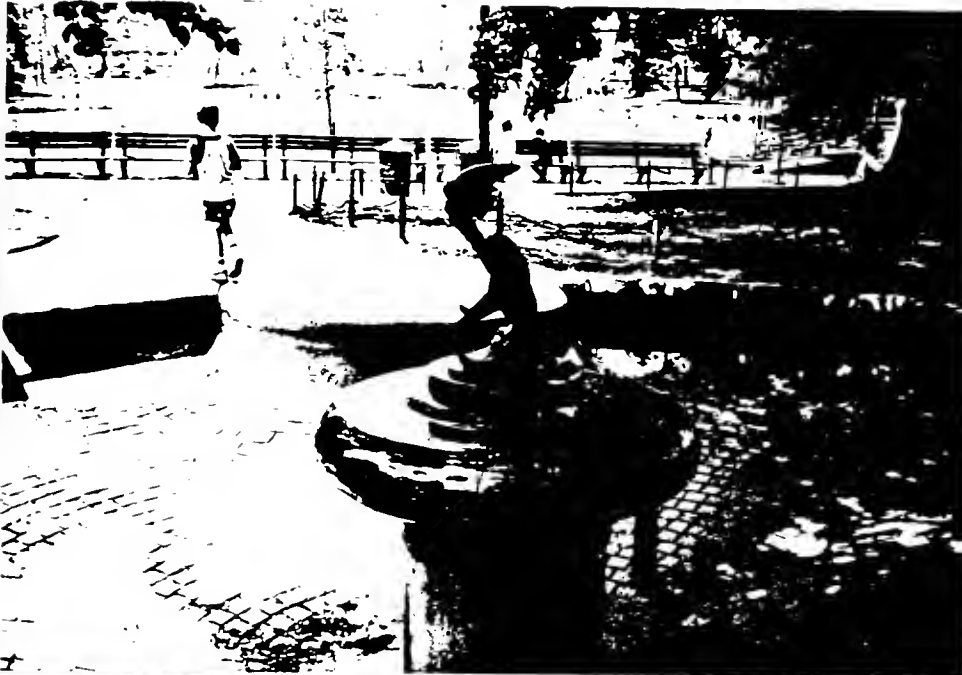
Trash build up around  
trash barrels.



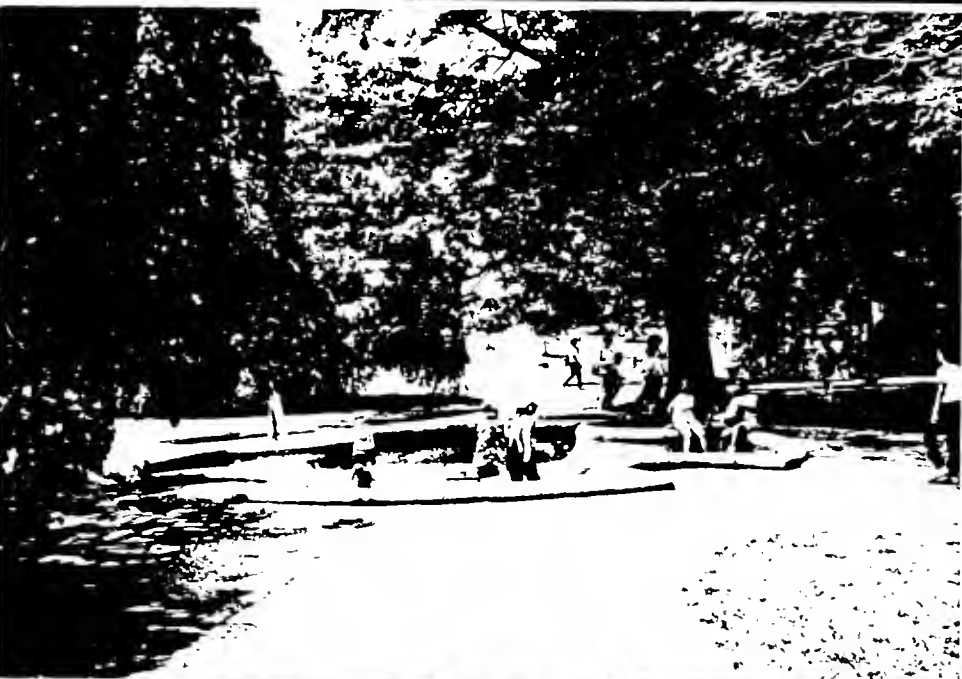




SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 13**

Fountain-- not working.

**Site Photograph 14**

Fountain-- not working.

**Site Photograph 15**Edging around pond  
settling in some areas.





### Site Photograph 16

Ornamental fencing and historic sign around edge of park.

### Site Photograph 17

### Site Photograph 18





Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Public Gardens  
Location: Arlington, Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets  
Acreage: 24.25 A  
Site Type: Passive Park

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**Site Description:**

The Public Gardens is a large rectangular site surrounded by Charles Street on the east, Boylston Street on the south, Arlington Street on the west and Beacon Street on the north. The park is well provided with a great variety of deciduous shade trees, shrub and flower beds. Six fountains and several statues serve as focal points for the garden. A curvilinear duck pond is the central element of the park. It is highlighted with swan boat rides and an elegant chain suspension bridge which spans the pond carrying the central axis path from Commonwealth Avenue Mall to the Boston Common. The Gardens are enclosed with an ornamental iron fence. Surrounding land uses are commercial and residential.

---

**Condition Assessments:**

Most standard park-built elements are in good to excellent condition. The major exception is the fact that none of the six fountains are operating, although each appears to be in good condition. The trees, shrubs, flowers and grass all appear well maintained and in good condition, with the exception of bare patches in grass areas. Renovations to the park are scheduled by the City.

---

**Major Site Issues:**

The Public Gardens is an extraordinary park and one of the prominent landscape features of Boston. Its mature and diverse collection of trees, its delightful diversity of fountains, and its expanse of lawns surrounding the duck pond all contribute to the high visual quality of the space. Its establishment in 1839 extended the open space of the Common and ensured the provision of an elaborate botanical garden for the developing City. *L.C.* ✓

On the whole, maintenance is very good, with the exception that trash needs more frequent removal from receptacles. The edging around the pond has settled in places and needs repair. Fountains are all in need of repair, and would add immeasurably to the park if in operation. The heavy use of the site is evident in desire lines and worn patches in the grass. Compacted dirt around trees will cause stress by denying water and oxygen intake of the roots.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Public Gardens

No.: BB-5

Location: Arlington, Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets

Acreage: 24.25 A Site Type: Passive Park

Site Description:

The Public Gardens is a large rectangular site surrounded by Charles Street on the east, Boylston Street on the south, Arlington Street on the west and Beacon Street on the north. The park is well provided with a great variety of deciduous shade trees, shrub and flower beds. Six fountains and several statues serve as focal points for the garden. A curvilinear duck pond is the central element of the park. It is highlighted with swan boat rides and an elegant chain suspension bridge which spans the pond carrying the central axis path from Commonwealth Avenue Mall to the Boston Common. The Gardens are enclosed with an ornamental iron fence. Surrounding land uses are commercial and residential.

Condition Assessments:

Most standard park built elements are in good to excellent condition. The major exception is the fact that none of the six fountains are operating, although each appears to be in good condition. The trees, shrubs, flowers and grass all appear well maintained and in good condition, with the exception of bare patches in grass areas. Renovations to the park are scheduled by the City.

Major Site Issues:

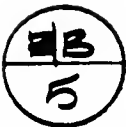
The Public Gardens is an extraordinary park and one of the prominent landscape features of Boston. Its mature and diverse collection of trees, its delightful diversity of fountains, and its expanse of lawns surrounding the duck pond all contribute to the high visual quality of the space. Its establishment in 1839 extended the open space of the Common and ensured the provision of an elaborate botanical garden for the developing City.

On the whole, maintenance is very good, with the exception that trash needs more frequent removal from receptacles. The edging around the pond has settled in places and needs repair. Fountains are all in need of repair, and would add immeasurably to the park if in operation. The heavy use of the site is evident in desire lines and worn patches in the grass. Compacted dirt around trees will cause stress by denying water and oxygen intake of the roots.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SITE SUMMARY



SITE NO.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
DRAINAGE CONDITION	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
VANDALISM	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE	
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	
SPORTS FACILITIES	
PLAYGROUNDS	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
BUILDINGS	Handwritten notes in cursive script.
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	Handwritten notes in cursive script.

PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

REFER  
TO E/L-2

B/B  
8

B/B  
12

SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL AND AMORY SQUARE

Site Name: DARTMOUTH STREET MALL Site Type: Mall

Location: DARTMOUTH TOWN. BOULEVARD / BEACON Acreage: 1.1 A

Evaluation Team: SF & BH

Weather Conditions:

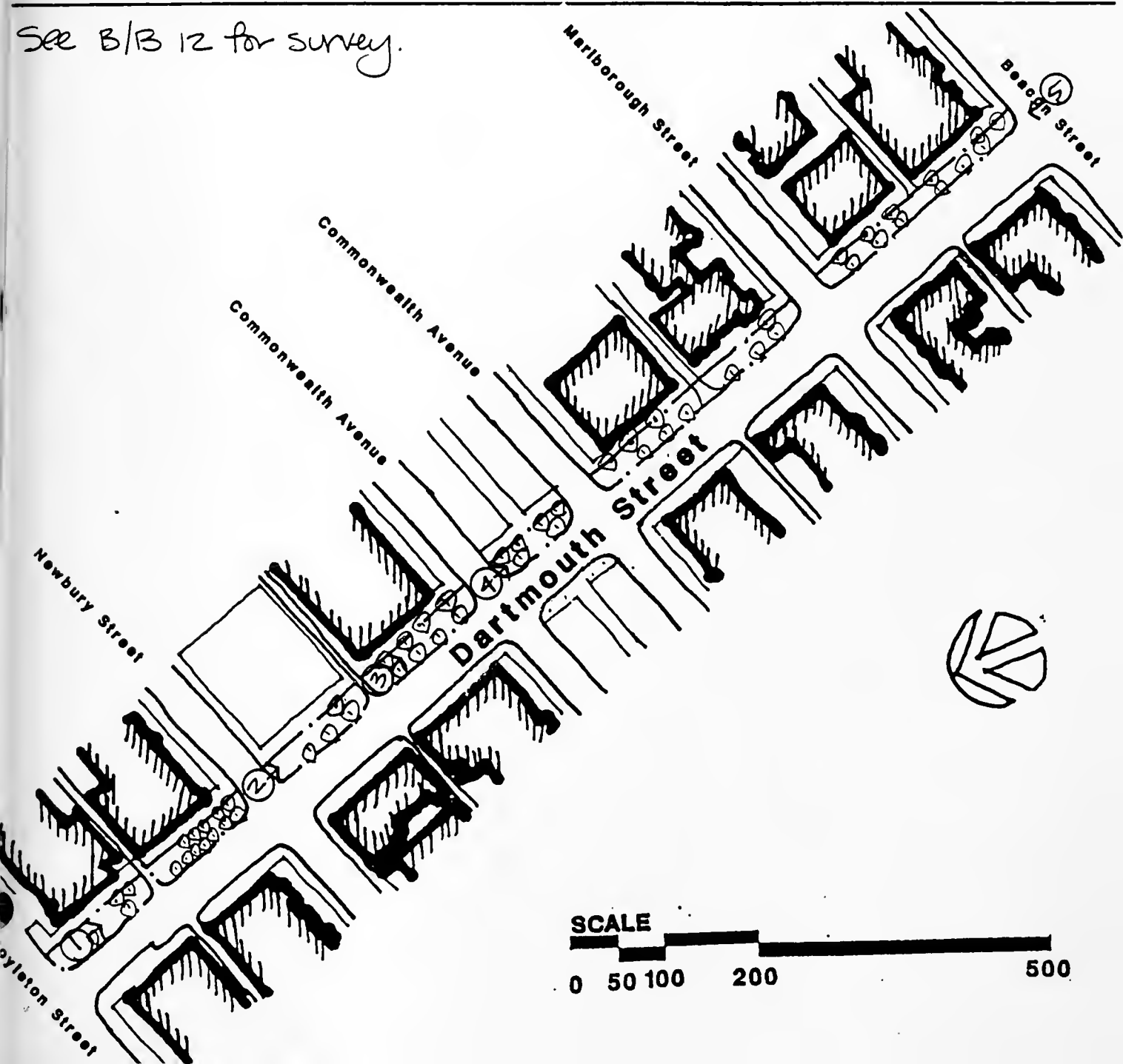
Evaluation Date: 5.22.87

Sunny

Surrounding Land Uses: Residential, Commercial

## Site Plan

See B/B 12 for survey.









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

Site Name: COMM AVE MALL (1 of 3)

Site Type: Mall

Location: COMM AVE (ARLINGTON TO KENNEDY)

Acreage: 2.0A

Evaluation Team: SF & BCL

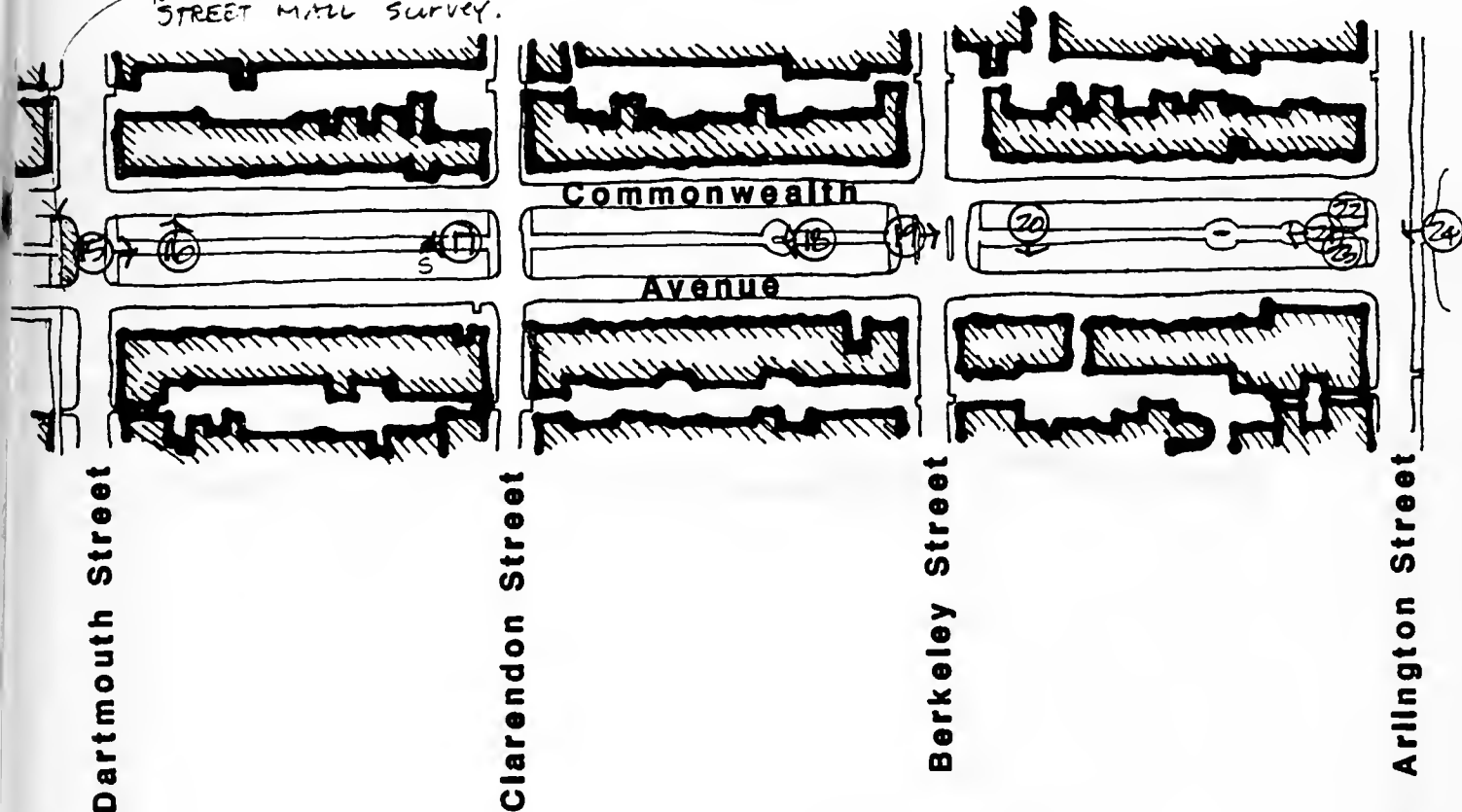
Weather Conditions: Fair

Evaluation Date: 5.29.87

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

## Site Plan

NOT SURVEYED - PART OF DARTMOUTH  
STREET MALL SURVEY.



SCALE

0 50 100 200

500





# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

B/B  
10

SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BECON HILL

Site Name: COMM AVE MALL (2013) Site Type: Mall

Location: COMM AVE (ARLINGTON TO KENMORE) Acreage: 2.0A

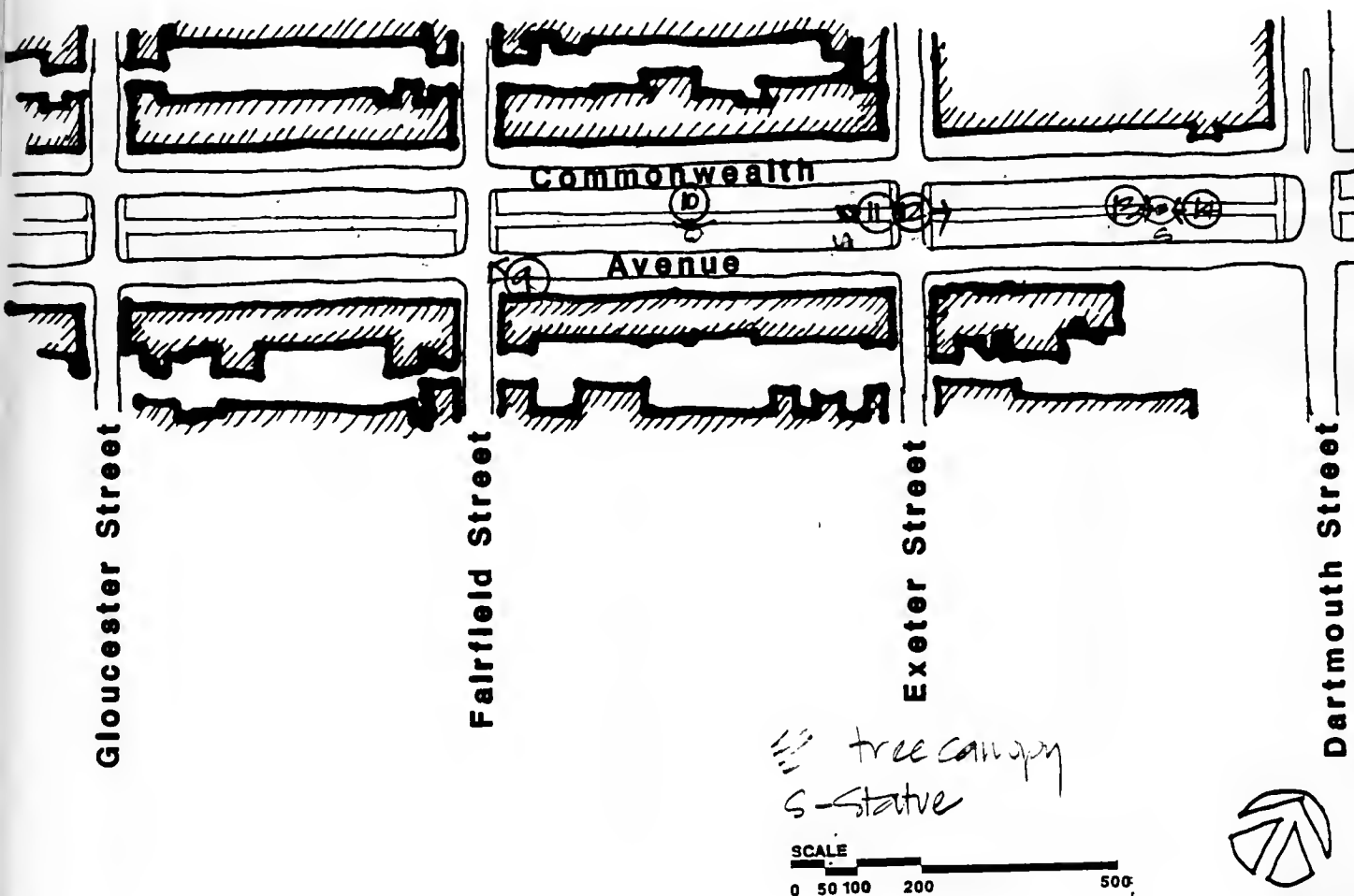
Evaluation Team: BCH & SF

Weather Conditions: Fair

Evaluation Date: 5.28.07

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

## Site Plan







# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY | BEACON HILL

Site Name: COMM AVE MALL (3 of 3)

Site Type: Mall

Location: COMM AVE (ARLINGTON TO KENNESAW)

Acreage: 2.0A

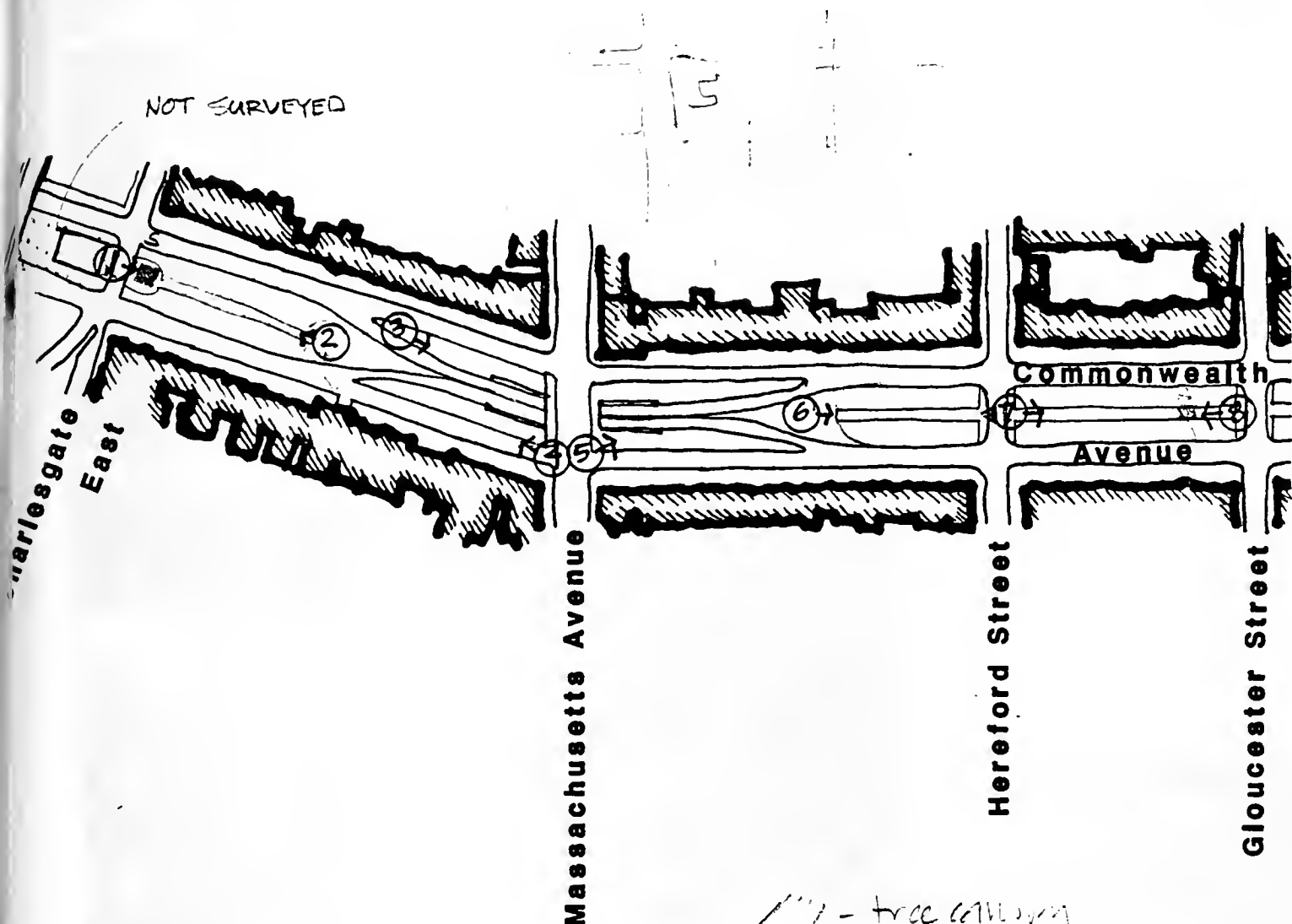
Evaluation Team: BCH & SF

Weather Conditions: 7-72

Evaluation Date: 5.28.87

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

## Site Plan



1/2" - tree canopy  
S - street

SCALE  
0 50 100 200 500







SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 1**

Statue of Lief Ericson at Charlesgate. East end of park. Stone-dust walkway, seating and beginning of linear walk along mall. Many shade trees including Elms behind.

**Site Photograph 2**

Circular end to east area. Formal planting of trees doing well in lawn.

**Site Photograph 3**

View into underpass below Massachusetts Avenue. Grass very patchy in some areas.





SITE NO.



### Site Photograph 4

View down from  
Massachusetts Avenue  
overpass showing  
shrub plantings and  
poor grass.



### Site Photograph 5

Shrubs old and distorted  
from over-pruning.  
Needs replanting.



### Site Photograph 6

Entry into walkway down  
mall. Edge defined  
by steel picket fence.





**Site Photograph 7**

Generous walkway with benches at sides. Shade trees on either side.



**Site Photograph 8**

Statue. Planting at base poor. Pavement around statue not wide enough to accommodate maintenance vehicle, therefore grass eroded.



**Site Photograph 9**

View from Commonwealth Avenue looking at extent of shade tree planting.







SITE NO.



### Site Photograph 10

Granite drinking fountain in need of repair.



### Site Photograph 11

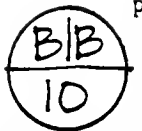
A statue.



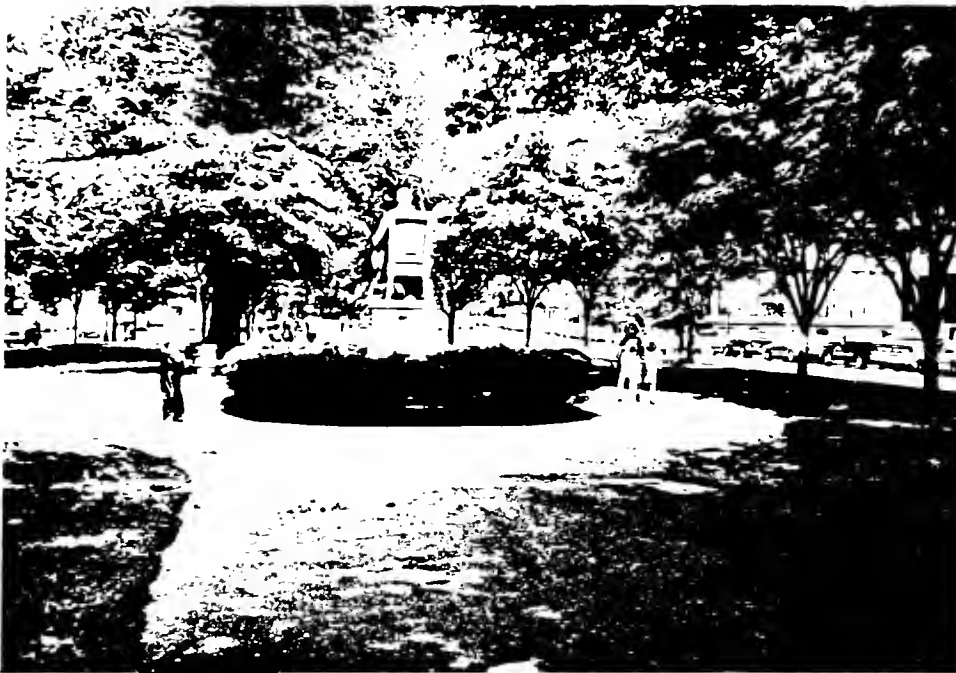
### Site Photograph 12

View down center of mall showing mature trees and recently planted replacement trees.





SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 13**

A statue.

**Site Photograph 14**

Front of statue.

**Site Photograph 15**View down mall from  
Dartmouth Street.



BIB  
10

SITE NO.



Site Photograph 16

Granite memorial  
bench.



Site Photograph 17

A statue.



Site Photograph 18

A statue.





SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 19**

View down mall from  
Berkeley Street.  
New decorative metal  
fencing in the process  
of being installed.

**Site Photograph 20**

A granite memorial  
bench.

**Site Photograph 21**

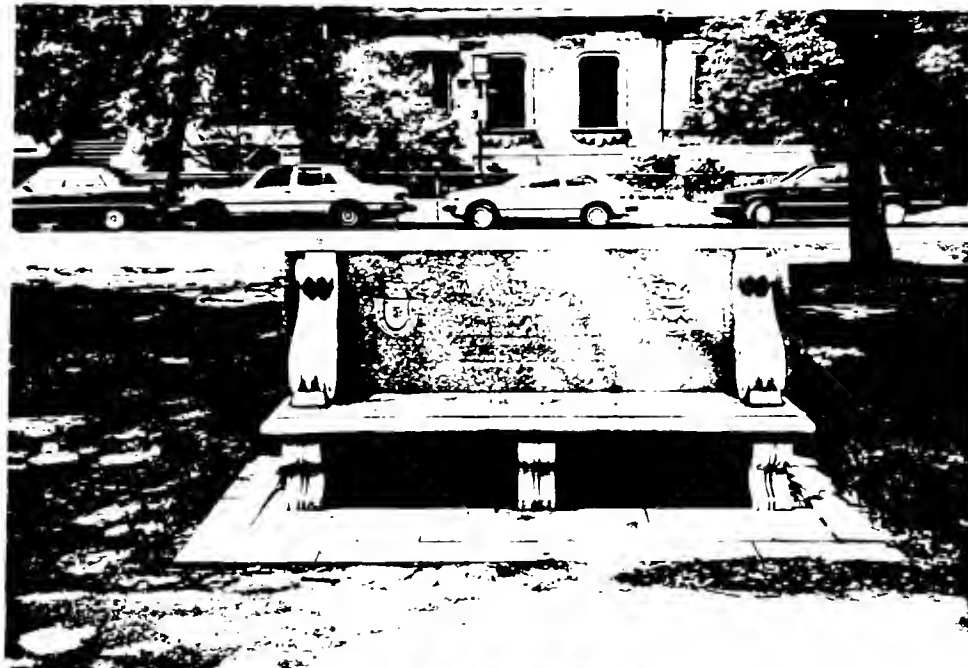
A statue.







SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 22**

A granite memorial bench.

**Site Photograph 23**

A granite memorial bench.

**Site Photograph 24**

View into mall from  
Arlington Street.  
Decorative metal fence  
in the process of  
installation.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill  
Site Name: Commonwealth Avenue Mall  
Location: Commonwealth Avenue  
Acreage: 11 A Site Type: Mall

No.: BB-10

**Site Description:** Commonwealth Avenue Mall is a large mall designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as part of the larger metropolitan open space system. The mall runs down the center of Commonwealth Avenue from the Public Gardens on the east to Kenmore Square on the west. It is surrounded by four and five-story townhouses. The park has a wide central walkway with benches and seven monuments along its length. Four lines of trees have been planted and are the most prominent feature of the mall. At several cross streets ornamental iron or steel picket fences with granite bollards define the entrance into the mall and help to direct pedestrian traffic to the central pathway. From Charlesgate East to the Massachusetts Avenue overpass the mall is primarily edged with steel picket fencing.

**Condition Assessments:** Most of the site improvements are in good condition. Most of the monuments are in excellent condition. A few benches and all the trash receptacles are in fair to poor condition. Most of the trees are in good condition and are well maintained. Some recently installed trees and the shrubbery are in fair condition. The lawn is worn in many areas with desire lines. Poor grass coverage and irregular surface result in a lawn that is in fair to poor condition.

**Major Site Issues:** The Commonwealth Avenue Mall, with its mature trees, beautifully crafted monuments and open expanses of grass, is one of the extraordinary landscape features of Boston and characterizes the Back Bay neighborhood. The greatest improvement in the overall appearance of this space would be achieved by improving the quality of the grass. This effort would involve not only a much more vigorous turf maintenance program, including aeration and top dressing, but also the restricting of access across the corners of the mall where desire lines prominently cross diagonally over the lawn to the main pathway. A method, such as use of fencing, should be visually harmonious with the design of the site. Improvement to the grass should also include filling of depressions to provide a more regular and smooth surface. The pathways encircling the monuments are not generous enough for maintenance



vehicles to pass, and worn patches of grass and puddles have formed beyond the limits of the pathways here.

Improved pruning of shrubbery which encourages its natural growth form as well as additional shrubs at the Massachusetts Avenue underpass would improve this area. The choice of new tree plantings for the mall can better approximate the character of the original Elms. The Ash and Sweet Gum have a stiff and more geometric form, not the graceful pendulous character of the Elms which provided relief from the urban street.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SITE SUMMARY

**B/B**  
**10**

SITE NO.  
**394**

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	77	Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	8	Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
BARRIER FREE DESIGN		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
DRAINAGE CONDITION		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
VANDALISM		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
SPORTS FACILITIES		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
PLAYGROUNDS		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
BUILDINGS		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS		Where to place the building, the building materials, and the building's orientation to the street and the surrounding area.

PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:

1. The building is located in a residential area, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial.

2. The building is located in a residential area, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial.

3. The building is located in a residential area, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial.

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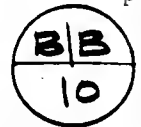
5. The building is located in a residential area, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial. The building is a two-story structure, and the surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial.





# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

STANDARD PARK  
BUILT ELEMENTS



SITE NO.  
194

	QUANTITY		MATERIALS										CONDITION								LOCATION	MISC.
	AMOUNT	ADEQUATE #	CONCRETE	WOOD	WOOD & CONCRETE	METAL	STONE	BRICK	CHAIN LINK	BIT. CONCRETE	OTHER	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNUSABLE	UNAVAILABLE (SNOW)	POORLY LOCATED	APPROPRIATENESS	EVIDENCE OF	ANIMALS	
BENCHES, PARK	40																					
BICYCLE RACKS																						
BLEACHERS																						
BOLLARDS	20																					
CATCHBASINS	1																					
CURBS																						
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	2																					
DUMPSTERS																						
FENCES																						
GAME TABLES																						
LIGHTING																						
PEDESTRIAN:	29																					
PARKING/ROAD:	1																					
SPORTS																						
MONUMENTS	7																					
PICNIC TABLES																						
RAILINGS																						
RAMPS																						
SERVICE GATES																						
SIGNS, ENTRY	2																					
STAIRS																						
TRASH RECEPTACLES:																						
WALLS																						
WATER FEATURES																						
OTHER																						



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SPORTS FACILITIES



SITE NO.

生可

[illegible]







NATURAL PARK  
ELEMENTS



194

[illegible]









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



SITE NO.

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL

Site Name: CORREY SQUARE

Site Type: Scenic View

Location: DARTMOUTH & BOYLSTON

Acreage: 1.88A

Evaluation Team: SF & BH

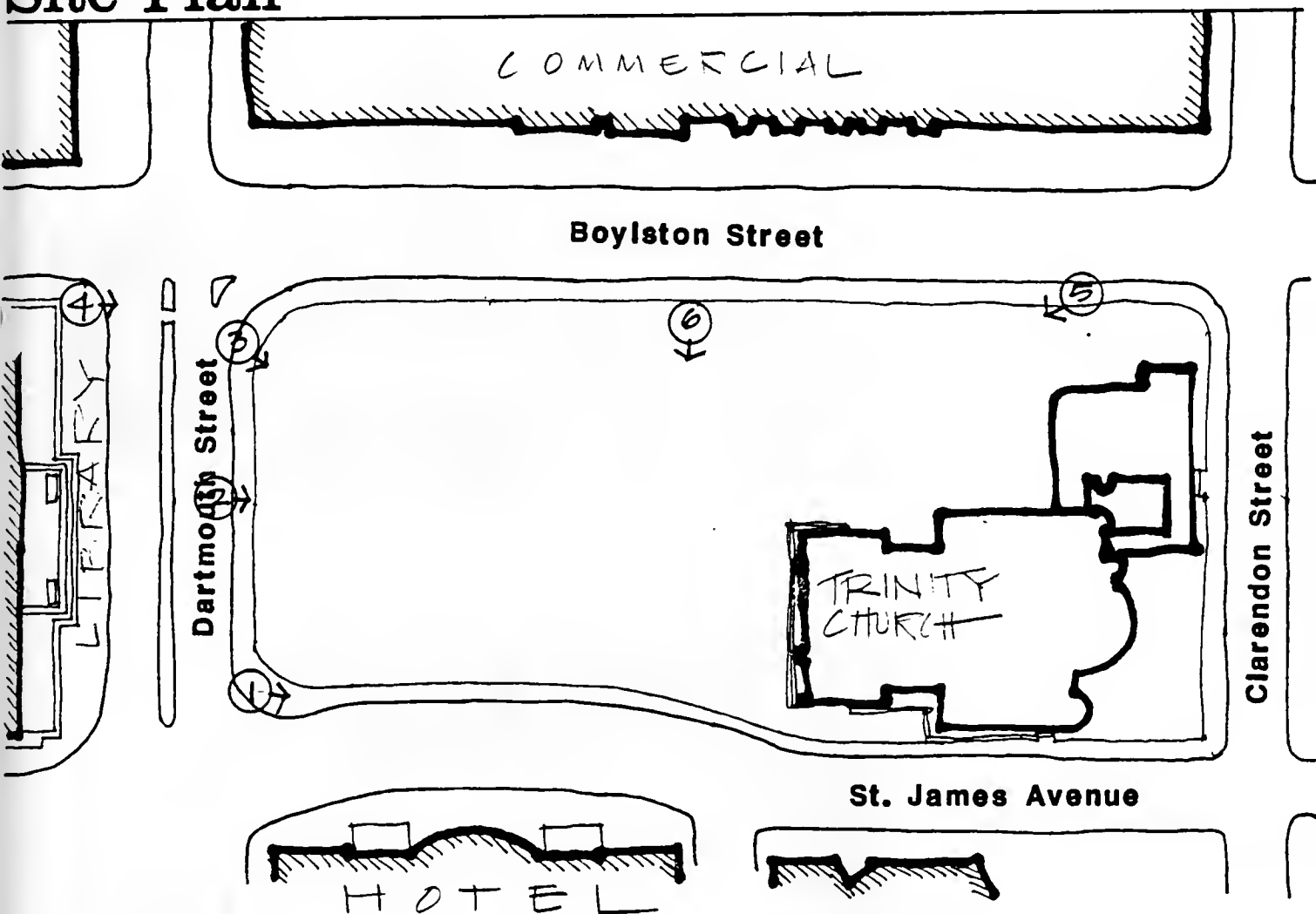
Weather Conditions:

Evaluation Date: 5.22.87

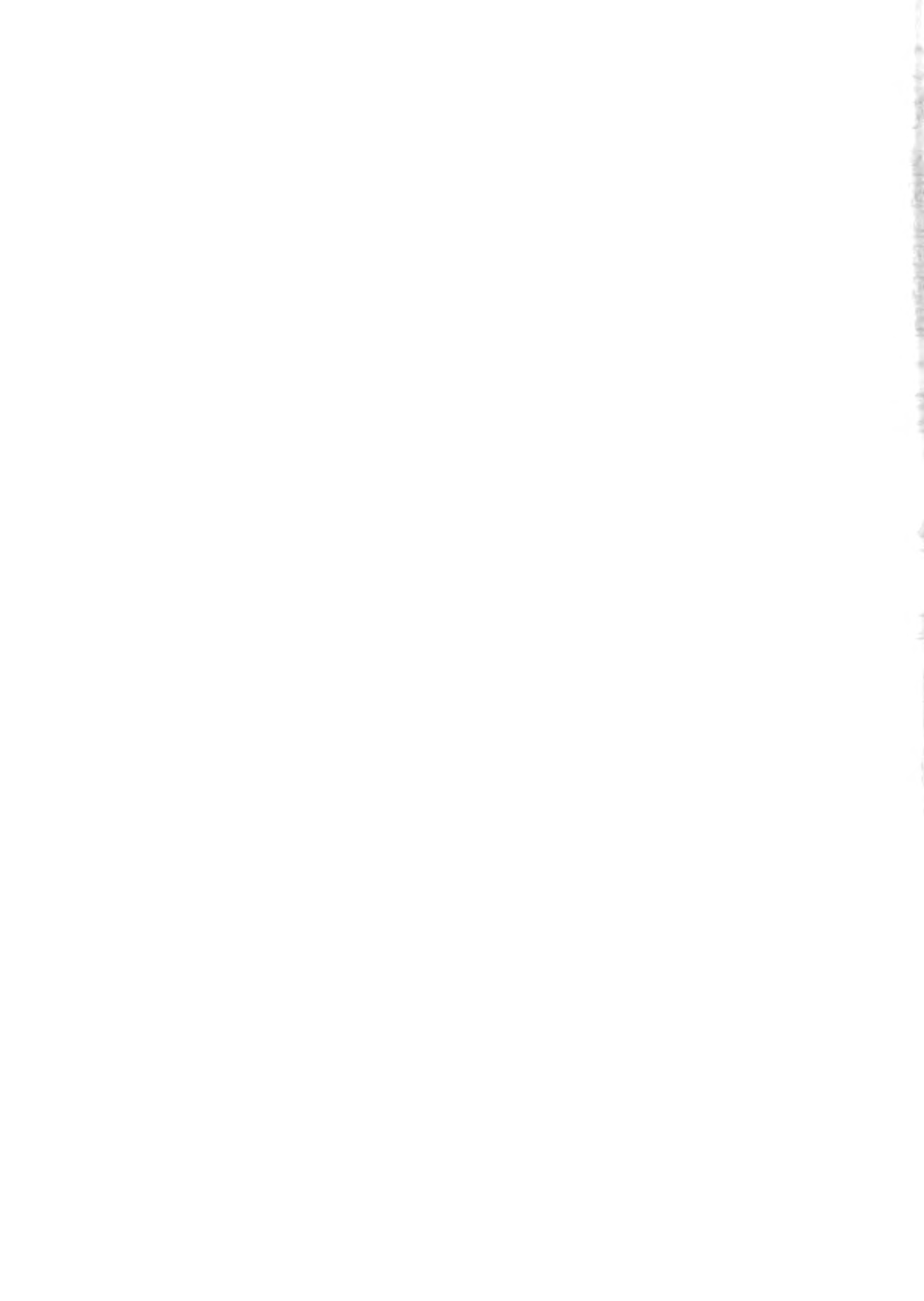
Sunny

Surrounding Land Uses: Commercial, Church, hotel, library

## Site Plan



SCALE  
0 5 10 20 40 60 80 100



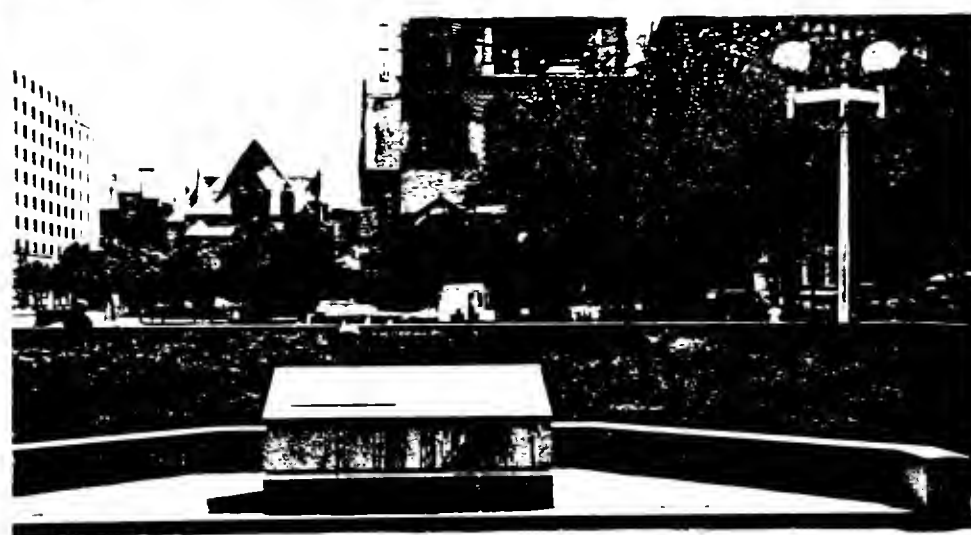


SITE NO.



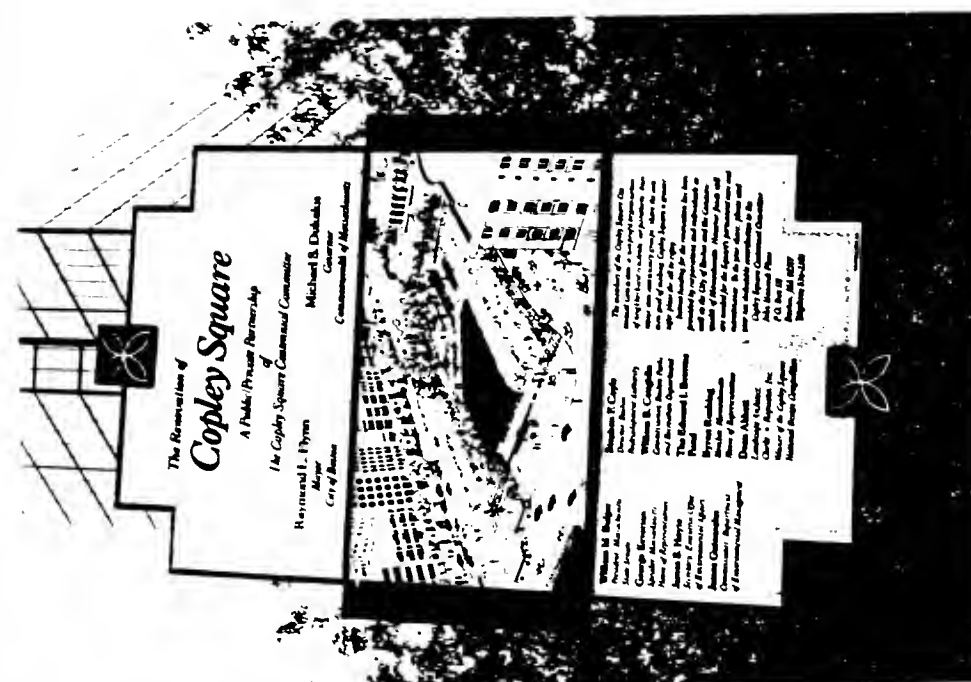
### Site Photograph 1

View along St. James Avenue.



### Site Photograph 2

Kahlil Gibran Monument opposite Boston Public Library. Needs cleaning.



### Site Photograph 3

New design for site.





SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 4**

View from Boylston Street. Shows the prominent location of this square next to Trinity Church and the Hancock Building. Street vendors use this space.

**Site Photograph 5**

Street edge along Boylston Street with Boston Public Library at far end.

**Site Photograph 6**

View across site towards Copley Plaza Hotel.







Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Copley Square

No.: BB-11

Location: Huntington Avenue, Boylston and Dartmouth Streets

Acreage: 1.88 A Site Type: Square

Site Description:

Copley Square, located in the commercial center of Back Bay, is a large sunken site between Boylston Street on the north, Dartmouth Street on the west and St. James Street on the south. Trinity Church, located at the southeast corner of the square, is the most prominent site feature. The square faces the Copley Plaza Hotel to the south, the Boston Public Library to the west, and numerous commercial buildings along Boylston Street to the north. The John Hancock building, approximately 60 stories in height, overshadows the park to the southeast.

A sunken fountain area is located along the Boylston Street edge of the square. This edge is significantly below the grade of the street and sidewalk and is reached by a series of steps and terraces moving down to the fountain from the west and east. There are two linear plantings of trees, one along Boylston Street and another along St. James Street. The Dartmouth Street edge is defined by a large grassed area with Crabapple trees.

Condition Assessments:

This site is scheduled for complete reconstruction. Most standard park built elements and trees are in good condition. The fountain is not presently working and the pavement is deteriorated in a number of areas.

Major Site Issues:

Copley Square is one of the most significant public spaces in Boston, and surrounded by magnificent historic buildings. In its current condition, its sunken design separates the park from the activities of the street and makes it uninviting to use and difficult to supervise. Its predominantly hard surface gives it a harsh character and makes it very hot in the summer months.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SITE SUMMARY



SITE NO.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	
DRAINAGE CONDITION	
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	
VANDALISM	
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE	
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	
SPORTS FACILITIES	
PLAYGROUNDS	
BUILDINGS	
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	

PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:

the park is scheduled for total reconstruction



SITE NO.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SPORTS FACILITIES



SITE NO.

	QUANTITY		MATERIALS		CONDITION								LOCATION		MISC.											
	AMOUNT	INADEQUATE #	SKINNED INFIELD	SODDED INFIELD	STONE DUST	ASPHALT	METAL	GRASS	OTHER	% COVERAGE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNUSABLE	UNRATABLE (SNOW)	POORLY LOCATED	APPROPRIATELY LOCATED	EVIDENCE OF LANDSLIDE	LIGHTING	TEAM SEATING	PRESENT	SEATING	FENCING	PRESENT	
BASKETBALL:																										
SURFACE																										
BACKBOARD/HOOP																										
TENNIS:																										
BANGBOARD																										
FENCING																										
SURFACE																										
NET POLES																										
OTHER COURT:																										
BASEBALL:																										
BACKSTOP																										
INFIELD																										
OUTFIELD																										
LITTLE LEAGUE:																										
BACKSTOP																										
INFIELD																										
OUTFIELD																										
SOFTBALL:																										
BACKSTOP																										
INFIELD																										
OUTFIELD																										
FOOTBALL: FIELD																										
SOCCER: FIELD																										
OTHER FIELD:																										
OTHER FACILITY:																										

COURTS

FIELDS









NATURAL PARK  
ELEMENTS

[illegible]



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

MICROCLIMATE

SITE NO.

OVERSHADOWED BY BUILDINGS	X
WELL ORIENTED FOR SUN EXPOSURE	X
VACANT PARCEL ALONG PARK'S SOUTHERN/EASTERN EXPOSURE	
HARSH WIND CONDITIONS	X
SUBJECT TO ROAD SALT SPRAY	
NEARBY POLLUTION PROBLEM	
SUBJECT TO REFLECTIVE HEAT FROM PAVEMENT OR BUILDINGS	X









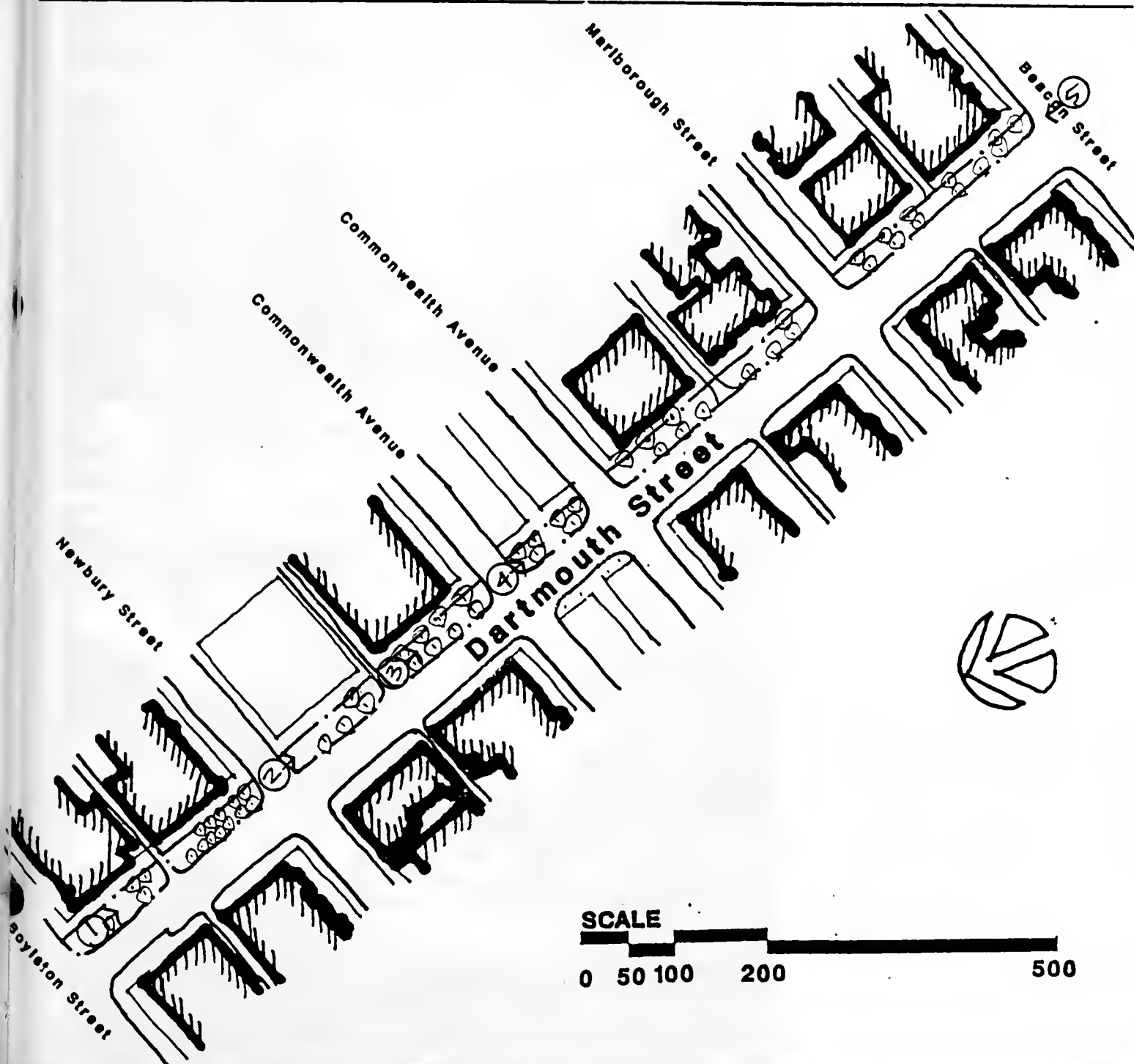
# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

B/B  
8

B/B  
12

Neighborhood: BACK BAY / BEACON HILL AND AMORY SQUARE SITE NO.  
Site Name: DARTMOUTH STREET MALL Site Type: Mall  
Location: DARTMOUTH STWN. BOYLESTON BEACON Acreage: 1.1 A  
Evaluation Team: SF & BH Weather Conditions:  
Evaluation Date: 5.22.87 Sunny  
Surrounding Land Uses: Residential, Commercial

## Site Plan







SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 1**

View of block between Boylston and Newbury Streets. Note wide expanse of pavement in relationship to tree canopy. First tree on left typical condition of those to be removed - stunted and malformed.

**Site Photograph 2**

Block between Newbury Street and Commonwealth Avenue. Trees beginning to develop a full canopy.

**Site Photograph 3**

View shows planting of annuals at base of trees. Flowers should be planted on a generous scale. Benches need re-alignment.





SITE NO.

**Site Photograph 4**

Amory Square at  
intersection with  
Commonwealth Avenue.

**Site Photograph 5**

View of corner at  
Beacon Street.

**Site Photograph 6**



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Amory Square and Dartmouth Street Mall

Location: Dartmouth Street between Boylston and ~~BB-12~~ Beacon Streets ✓

Acreage: 1.1 A

Site Type: Mall

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**Site Description:**

Dartmouth Street Mall and Amory Square are designed as a wide brick-paved mall on the west side of Dartmouth Street stretching from Copley Square to Beacon Street. Two rows of trees and pedestrian lights line the promenade. Three small sitting areas with concrete benches are provided. Some of the original trees are missing.

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**Condition Assessments:**

The brick paving is in good condition, although a few small areas need repair. The benches and lights are almost all in good condition. The trees are mostly in fair condition. Many trees are showing the stress of the paved environment within which they live.

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**Major Site Issues:**

*l.c.*  
As a whole, the mall is an attractive feature of this City street. However, the design could have gone further in developing sitting areas and providing a rich planting. The approximately forty-foot wide brick-paved sidewalk is more than sufficient to accommodate both pedestrian passage and gathering areas. Additional open ground with grass, groundcovers or shrubs would greatly enrich the area without constricting the gracious dimensions of the mall. The annual flower plantings at the base of the trees are too small scale to be effective. The tree pits, also, are of insufficient size for optimum growing conditions. ✓





Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Amory Square and Dartmouth Street Mall

No.: BB-8

Location: Dartmouth Street between Boylston and  
Beacon Streets

BB-12

Acreage: 1.1 A

Site Type: Mall

Site Description:

Dartmouth Street Mall and Amory Square are designed as a wide brick-paved mall on the west side of Dartmouth Street stretching from Copley Square to Beacon Street. Two rows of trees and pedestrian lights line the promenade. Three small sitting areas with concrete benches are provided. Some of the original trees are missing.

Condition Assessments:

The brick paving is in good condition, although a few small areas need repair. The benches and lights are almost all in good condition. The trees are mostly in fair condition. Many trees are showing the stress of the paved environment within which they live.

Major Site Issues:

As a whole, the mall is an attractive feature of this City street. However, the design could have gone further in developing sitting areas and providing a rich planting. The approximately forty foot wide brick-paved sidewalk is more than sufficient to accommodate both pedestrian passage and gathering areas. Additional open ground with grass, groundcovers or shrubs would greatly enrich the area without constricting the gracious dimensions of the mall. The annual flower plantings at the base of the trees are too small scale to be effective. The tree pits, also, are of insufficient size for optimum growing conditions.



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SITE SUMMARY

B/B  
12

SITE NO.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	
LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	→ gap views sidewalk wall w/ double row of planting, some benches & trash receptacles
USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	tree for shade
APPROPRIATENESS OF PARK FUNCTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOOD	
BARRIER FREE DESIGN	curb cuts at street corners
DRAINAGE CONDITION	adequate
DESIGN-RELATED MAINTENANCE ISSUES	tree pits too small
VANDALISM	-
VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	No
VISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	
VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	good
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	good
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE	None
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	good
SPORTS FACILITIES	-
PLAYGROUNDS	-
BUILDINGS	-
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	good to fair

PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:

- Gap views brick sidewalk w/ 2 rows of trees function well a.
- sidewalk wall
- Tree pits, w/ sufficient size for optimum growing conditions.
- not plants, long enough for trees to form complete canopy -
- think to cut down of hard reflection from sidewalk
- Perch. Space could be w/ more big enlarging pits, seating areas, planting for shade, flowers



[illegible]



# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SPORTS FACILITIES

5/8  
12

SITE NO.

	QUANTITY		MATERIALS		CONDITION		LOCATION		MISC.																	
	AMOUNT	#	INADEQUATE	ADEQUATE	SKINNED INFIELD	SODDED INFIELD	STONE DUST	ASPHALT	METAL	GRASS	OTHER	% COVERAGE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNUSABLE	UNSATURABLE (SNOW)	POORLY LOCATED	APPROXIMATELY LOCATED	EVIDENCE OF	LIGHTING	TEAR SCALING	SPREADING	FENCING PRESENT	
BASKETBALL:																										
SURFACE																										
BACKBOARD/HOOP																										
TENNIS:																										
BANGBOARD																										
FENCING																										
SURFACE																										
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BACKSTOP																										
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OUTFIELD																										
FOOTBALL: FIELD																										
SOCCER: FIELD																										
OTHER FIELD:																										
OTHER																										

COURTS

FIELDS









# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

NATURAL PARK  
ELEMENTS

2/3  
12

SITE NO

FEATURE/AREA	QUANTITY		CONDITION	LOCATION		MISC.
	EXISTS	QUANTITY		APPROPRIATENESS	APPROPRIATENESS	
TREES	50	7	UNRATABLE (SNOW)			7 need removal - dead or malden
SHRUBS			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
TURF			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
GROUND COVER			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
FLOWER BEDS			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
GROUND			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
CONTAINER			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
WEED SPECIES			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
WOODS			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
PONDS			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
STREAMS			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			
FEATURE/AREA			UNRATABLE (SNOW)			



2012

# CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

MICROCLIMATE

BB  
12

SITE NO.

OVERSHADOWED BY BUILDINGS	
WELL ORIENTED FOR SUN EXPOSURE	
VACANT PARCEL ALONG PARK'S SOUTHERN/EASTERN EXPOSURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HARSH WIND CONDITIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUBJECT TO ROAD SALT SPRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NEARBY POLLUTION PROBLEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUBJECT TO REFLECTIVE HEAT FROM PAVEMENT OR BUILDINGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Parkway, U.S. 1. West at corner with Newbury St.





BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06314 449 5





**Report Binder**  
**Stock No./Color**

80571	Black
80572	Lt. Blue
80573	Dk. Blue
80574	Rust
80579	Exec. Red

MADE IN THE USA

